HOBSONS
Horse-load of Letters:

OR,

A PRESIDENT
for EPISTLES.

The First Part.

Being a most exact Method for men, of what quality soeuer, how to indight, according to the forme of these times, whether it be for serious Negotiations, priuate businesses, amorous accompliment, wanton merriment, or the defence of Honour and reputation.

A Worke different from all former publications, and not vnworthy the eyes of the most noblest SPIRITS.

Bramo assai, poco spero, nulla chieggio.

LONDON,
Printed by *G. P.* for *Richard Hawkins*, and are to be sold at his shop in Chancery-lane, neere Serieants Inne.
1617.

TO THE HONOVRABLE and vertuous Knight, *Sir* THOMAS BROMLEY.

YR: If I haue (a hart which is the veſſell of loue) it muſt vndoubtedly bee either full of you, or empty of all goodnes: you haue taught mee once how to goe, by your ſtrength, and gaue mee ſo ſufficient a ſupport from your fauour, that I might very vvell neglect thoſe threatning guſts which ſpake any loſſe vnto mee. This, when my memory forſakes it muſt forſake the world; for whilſt it is, it is but a Cabinet to keepe your vertues in me: And hence it comes, I am bold to preſent vnto you this oblation of my Pen, which when you haue read, if you pleaſe to burne, they ſhall draw nearer to the nature of a Sacrifice: for I doe not preſent them to you as Preſidents (your owne ſleighteſt conceits flye millions of degrees beyond them) but as meſſengers, to tell you that the Au-

thor, whereſoeuer he liues, doth dearely loue you. There be ſome of them that concerne Honour and honourable paſſages, betwixt noble aduerſaries: I know you will embrace and allow them, and though your ſelfe in your particular haue done much better, yet hee that ſhall walke in the path I haue limited, ſhall without doubt not erre in any Gentlemanly courſe of wel doing.

The motiues which vrged me to this, was the cruelty of thoſe ignorant angry ones that loue to vent their rages in foule words, and ſpend their execution with the coldeſt action; whereas indeed true vertue ſhould contend for vertue, and like Alexanders dogges, with a noble diſpiſingneſſe, not looke on the ſmaller Beaſts, but with an ouerflow of courage, ceaze vpon Lyons and Elephants. The matter being then ſo familiar both to your knowledge and experience, no man can correct mee with better authority, or proue mee with a iudgement which ſhall better pleaſe mee. Theſe Epiſtles I preſent but as imperfect offers of thoſe larger eſſaies and taſtes, I meane to purſue in another Treatiſe ſeconding this: in which I intend (God being pleaſed) to omit the nature of no Epiſtle needfull, with a diſcourſe of Combates, and the preſidents both of our owne and other nations, euen from the firſt vſe of the Engliſh Rapier to theſe times. In all which, mine ambition ſhall be that you will be pleaſed when you looke on the booke to remember mee, who will euer loue to obey you.

G. M.

TO THE READER:

of what quality soeuer.

Kinde Syr. Which dish in this poore feast of Epistles is for your taste, I know not, for they are as various as mens pallates; but which may most vndoubtedly giue you a surfaite is all: Curiosity and my forme of writing, hauing euer been at a perpetuall dissention; but since all mens writings haue a predestinate end, of good or euill hanging vpon them, I must hazard amongst the multitude: and though the subiect I write of hath been handled by many, and many of a great deale more merit; yet I haue runne so farre from the lisping affectation of ill embrodered speech, or from the rude plainnesse of too much dulnesse, that when my book shall bee paraleld with others, it will speake sufficiently to get it selfe a free passage, nothing being in it (I hope) vnworthy, nothing that may not very wel authorize imitation. Neither doe I ascribe to my selfe the grounds of euery inuention, for there bee

many due to ſuch excellencies as no man can controle, no man equall: nor is mine intent here to end, for it is but the beginning of a much better worke, as my next Booke ſhall witneſſe, which with all diligence ſhall follow this, containing thoſe formes and examples, which neuer yet haue beene publiſhed in any Epiſtles, and which I doubt not but ſhall giue to euerie breaſt all the ſatisfaction that can bee expected. And ſo wiſhing vnto you, what your heart can wiſh to it ſelfe, I leaue my loue and my booke with you.

G. M.

A PRE-

A PRESIDENT for EPISTLES.

I.

An Epiſtle exhortatory, which may come from any Honourable Enemy (being a man of eminence) for the pacifying a ſedition between their faimilies of one kindred, orb etween two Kingdomes.

Conſidering with our ſelues, the preſent ſtate of things, and waying more deeply the manner and tearmes wherin you and we doe ſtand, it maketh me to maruaile what euill and fatall chance doth ſo diſſeuer your hearts, and maketh them ſo blinde and vnmindfull of your profit, and ſo ſtill conciliate and heape to your ſelues moſt extreame miſchiefe: and alſo by all reaſon and order of neceſſity it ſhould be rather more conuenient for you to ſeeke and require moderate agreements of vs, whom God hath hitherto, according to our moſt iuſt, true and worthy intents proſpered, and ſet forward with your affliction and miſery, then that wee hauing the better hand ſhould ſeeke vnto you: yet to the intent that my charitable minde ſhould not ceaſe, by all meanes poſſible to prouoke and call you to your owne benefit, euen as the Father to the ſonne, or the elder brother to the younger, & as the louing Phyſician would doe to the miſtruſtfull and ignorant Patient, I am content to call and cry vpon you to looke to your ſtate, to auoide

the

the great calamities your family is in, to haue vs rather kinsmen then enimies, and rather kinde allyances from one stocke, then deuided strangers full of enuy? And if your Ruthen seruants shall retayne and kéepe from you this mine exhortation, as heretofore they haue done many things in like nature, tending to the like effect, for their owne priuate wealth and commodity, not regarding though you be still in misery, and shall abuse you with fained and forged tales; yet this shall be a witnesse before God and all Christian people, betwirt you and vs, that we professing the Gospel of Jesus Christ according to the doctrine thereof, do not cease to cal and prouoke you from the effusion of your owne bloud, from the destruction of your family, from perpetuall enmity and hatred, and from the finall ruine of your long setled prosperity, to liberty, amity, and to equality with vs.

Besides, who can possibly take into his consideration our nærenesse in affinity, hauing one selfe name and self brædyng, but will thinke it a thing very vnnáte, vnnaturall, and vnchristian, that there should be betwirt vs such mortall hatred; who in respect of other houses, should be like two brethren of one wombe? If you call it Prouidence or Chance, to be still afflicted and punished, may not the Highest say; I of mine infinit mercy and loue to your house, had prouided you many pacifications, but you refused them, you loued better dissention then vnity, discord then agreement, quarrell then peace, hatred then loue and charity? If you do then therefore smart for it, whom can you blame but your owne election?

But because of some of you, may say, that we séke not equallity, but dominion, not to be friends but Lords; although our protestations haue done inough to declare the contrary: yet here I protest, and declare vnto you, and al Christian people, that it is not our wil to subdue, but to haue amity, not to winne by force, but to conciliate by loue, not to spoyle and kill, but to saue and kéepe, not to

diſſeuer and diuorce, but to knit and conioyne from the greateſt to the leaſt, both the families, and to make of two houſes one, in loue, amity, concord, peace and charity; which if you refuſe, and driue vs to ſedition: who is guilty of the bloodshed? who is the occaſion of diſturbance? who maketh the brawles and vexation which ſhall follow? and what end can you looke for in theſe proceedings, but ſuch ſucceſſe as heeretofore hath bin experimented and aſſayed? We offer loue, we offer equalitie, wee are victors yet offer peace, wee winne, and yet would giue away our conqueſt: what can be more offered then intercourſe of loue, and comerce of ſocietyes, the aboliſhing of all grudges, and the memorie of all repetitions, which might be impediments to a mutual amity? We haue offered, not onely to leaue the authority, name, title, right or challenge of the elder houſe, but to receiue, if poſſible, a degree inferiour vnto you.

But peraduenture your hope is in the ayde of ſome ſtranger friends or neighbours; but I tell you, whoſoeuer ſhall help you to nourish diſcord, euen they will be your oppreſſors, filling your houſes, waſting your goods, ſpending and conſuming your victuals, holding you in ſubiection by your beholdingneſſe, and in the end regard you but as their ſlaues, which without them could not liue. O remember what it is to haue a forraine power within you, and a ſtrong enemy vpon you: you as it were the campe and plaine betwixt them to fight on, and to be troden on by both parties. If you looke but into the ſtate of Kingdomes, you ſhall ſee how dangerous it is to draw in ſtrangers: Did not the Britains call in the Saxons for help, and by them were put out? Did not France expel the Gaules: the Turke winne Grecia, and now all Hungarie? onely vnder the colour of ayde? and did not the Gothes by like meanes get all Italy, and the Lumbards one part thereof now called Lumbardy? What looke you for more, but whē ſtrangers know you cannot liue with-

out them? what will not they commaund you to doe? what will they not incroach vpon you? what will they not thinke they may doe? and what will they think that you dare doe? This stranger helpe is your confusion: their succor is your detriment, and the fredome so got is your seruitude. O what then is to be thought of the losse taken with them? Is it not better to compose and acquit all this calamity and trouble by friendship, and to end all sorrowes and affaires by an honourable concord? There is but two meanes to vnite the seueration of houses, and that is either force, or allyance: the first, you hate, which is force, the other you neglect as a thing vnworthy, and thereby inforce vpon you, hatred and malice: you will not haue peace, you will not haue allyance, you will not haue concord, so that vnkindnes commeth vpon you whether you wil or no. And yet if all things were considered, I feare it wil appeare that it were better for you to be vndone by vs, then relieued by strangers, lesse losse to your goods, lesse hurt to your bodies, and lesse dishonour to your reputations: let therefore neither your gouernors, nor abettors, nor they who so often haue wronged you in their counsails (being accustomed to prolongue all good times) feed you with faire words, and bring you into the snare from whence they cannot deliuer you.

Againe, if we and our houses being made one by amitie, be most able to defend vs against all oppositions, hauing our faiths for a wall, our mutuall loue for a garison, and God for defence, should make so noble and well agréeing a posterity, that neither in peace we may be ashamed, nor in deuisions afraid of any worldly power; why should not you be as desirous of the same, and haue as much cause to reioyce at it as we? If the honour of so good a worke doe not moue you to take and accept our loues, let the griefe and danger of the forenamed losses feare you to attempt, that thing which shall displease God, increase enuie, put your house in danger, destroy

your

your reputations, vndo your iſſue, waſte your commodities; and laſtly, bring to your ſeats a generall deſolation. We require but your loues, and agreement in vnity, which God of his infinit clemency & tender loue, which he hath declared to beare to both our families, hath offered vnto vs both, and in manner called vs both vnto it: whoſe calling and prouocation we haue and will follow to the beſt of our powers, and in his name, and with his ayde, admonition, exhortation, requeſts and meſſengers, not being able to doe it, and to finde ſtableneſſe in promiſes, we ſhal not willingly but conſtrained purſue your rancours, and chaſtize your wickednesſe, by the angry Angels of God, our ſwords and malitie, whereof I require and exhort you all, who haue loue to your name, pittie to your houſes, true hearts to your heyres, regard of your honours, and any fauour vnto peace, loue, vnity, and concord, to come and imbrace vs, and declare your true and godly hearts therunto: in which incounter, you ſhall finde ſo much loue ſorted with the beſt vertue, that doubtleſſe we ſhall euer hereafter liue one anothers admirers. Thus leauing this to the beſt of your worthieſt conſiderations, I bid you farewell.

A. S.

II.

An Epiſtle, which may come from any King, or Councell of State, for the calling in of any ſupreame Officer, to anſwere to wrongs which hee hath offered.

HEy the grace of God, King of D. to our welbeloued Coſen, C. Earle of E. greeting: So it is, that diuers Biſhops and Prelates, Barons, Knights, Vniuerſities, Communalties and Colledges, in and about the Precincts and Territories of your command, and the

dwellers, and inhabitants of other more remote places; beſides other of our ſubiects, are reſorted & come to our court, to haue wright of certaine grieſes, and vnlawfull troubles, which you by moſt vnaduiſed counſell, and ſimple information, haue purpoſed to doe vnto them, whereof wee marueil: Therefore, to withſtand and redreſſe ſuch things, ſo much enmorious to our ſtate, we are ſo coniopned to them, that we haue thought good by our royall power and authority, to command you to repayre to our City of R. in proper perſon, & there to ſhew and preſent your ſelfe before vs in our Councell-chamber, that you may be conſtrained to doe right to our people concerning the grieſes, which they alledge, that you are about to oppreſſe them with, who claime, to haue their reſort into our court, as the only place for redreſſe of their iniuries, and that you faile not thus to doe, in as ſpeedy manner as you can, immediately vpon the receit and ſight of theſe our preſent letters, for true teſtimony whereof wee haue to the ſame fixed our royall ſignet. Giuen at R. the ſeauenteenth day of A.

H.

III.

A Counſell-giuing Epiſtle, ſent from a man of wiſdom, to a man of great authority, who vpon ſome diſlike went about, not onely to giue ouer the world, but all manner of promotions therein.

IF as wel it had pleaſed you, at your departure, as now to haue vſed mine humble ſeruice, both I ſhould in better ſeaſon and to better purpoſe haue ſpoken, and you (if my ſpeech had preuailed) ſhould haue beene at this time, as no way more in danger, ſo much more in quietneſſe: I would then haue ſayd that wiſedome, and beene the onely leſſons appointed to man to follow, whence

wee

we ought to seeke all our knowledge, since they be such guides as cannot faile, which besides their inward comfort, doe lead so direct a way of proceeding as either must ensue, or if the wickednes of the world should oppresse it, it can neuer be said that euill happeneth to him who failes accompanied with vertue: But since it is weaknesse to much, to remember what should haue beene done, and that your commandement stretcheth to know what is to be done, I doe (most deare Sir) with humble boldnesse say, that your determination doth in no sort better please me then your actions. Many yeers you haue liued, so that neither alien, nor home bred, could accuse you for the least blemish in your vertue, and those which haue enuied you, haue found you so hartely strong, that they thought it better to rest in your friendship, then make new triall of your ennity. If this then haue proceeded out of the good constitution of your state, and out of a wise prouidence, generally to preuent all those things which might encumber your happinesse; why should you now seeke new courses, since your owne example comforts you to continue, and that it is to me most certaine, that no destiny whatsoeuer, can bring mans wit to a higher point then wisedome and goodnesse? Why should you deprive your self of gouernment, for feare of losing your gouernment, like one that should kill himselfe for feare of death: nay rather; if this aduersity be to be accounted of, arme vp your courage the more against it, for who will stick to him that abandons himselfe? Let your friends haue you in their eies, let them see the benefits of your vertue daily more and more, and so must they needes rather like of present sureties then incertaine changes. Lastly, whether your time call you to liue or dye, doe both like a man of goodnesse. Now for your second resolution, which is the abandoning of your children: What shall I say, if the affection of a father to his owne, cannot plead sufficiently against such cruelty: once certaine it is, the God whish

is the God of nature, doth neuer teach vnnaturalnesse: certainly in your children, nature promiseth nothing but goodnesse; and their education, by your fatherly care, hath bene hitherto such as hath ben most fit to restraine all euill, giuing their minds vertuous delights, and not grieuing them for want of wel ruled liberty: now to fall to sodaine forsaking them, what can it doe but argue suspicion; a thing no more vnpleasant then vnsure, for the preserving of vertue? But you wil leaue them to the guard of seruants, which (besides that the thing in it selfe is strange) doth surely come of an euil ground, that ignorance should be the mother of faithfulnesse; no, hee cannot be good that knows not why he is good, but stands so farre good as his fortune may keep him vnassayd: but comming once to that, his rude simplicity is either easily changed, or easily deceiued, and so growes that to be the last excuse of his fault, which seemed to haue bene the first foundation of his faith. Thus farre hath your commandement, and my zeale drawne me, which I like a man in a Valley, that may discerne hils, or like a poore passenger that may spy a rocke; so humbly submit to your worthy consideration, beseeching you againe to stand wholly vpon your owne vertue, as the surest way to maintaine you in that you are, and to auoyde any euill which may be imagined.

Faithfully yours,

S. T.

IIII.

A Letter, or Potent, either from a Councell of Warre, or a Councell of State, for the lodging of a band of Souldiers.

After our very hearty commendations: whereas we haue appointed the two hundred men vnder your leading,

leading, to lye for a certane time in the towne of T. and there to be furnished with lodging fire, and candle-light; and likewise. hauing taken order that they shall be well, and sufficiently, victualled from the generall store-house. These are therfore to will and command you immediatly, vpō the sight hereof, to cause ẏ sayd number to repayre thither accordingly, and there to lye vntill you receiue further direction to the contrary, whereof you may not faile: and for your doings this shall be your warrant. Giuen at D. the 20. of Sep.

H. W. T. R. W. S.

Superscribed,
To our welbeloued *N. D.*
Captaine of 200. foote.

V.

A Letter, or Potent, either from Generall, or Councell of Warre, for the raysing of a company to march into present seruice.

After our very hearty commendations: Whereas for especiall waighty seruices, to vs best knowne, wee haue resolued that you, and the band of foote vnder your leading, shall, without delay, be at the towne of M. vpon wednesday next at night, being the third of this present month. These are therefore straitly to charge and command you, without delay, accordingly at the time aforesayd, not to faile to be at the towne of M. and there; as likewise during the time of this seruice, to be at the command of Sir C. S. Knight, Colonell of one thousand foote; whereof faile not at your extreame perill: and for your so doing this letter shal be your warrant. Giuen at D. &c.

H. W. T. R. W. S.

Superscribed,
To our welbeloued friend
N. D. Captaine of 200. foote.

VI.

A Letter, to countermand, or stay, the former proceedings.

After our very hearty commendations: Vnderstanding that the affayres, and necessities of the forts and defencible places, doe not require such hasty and expeditious seconds, as our care was willing to haue administred vnto them: and for diuers other especiall good causes, to vs best knowns, wee haue therefore thought good to deferre the iourney lately appointed to be made, for a time: Wherefore, wee require you to take notice thereof, and to forbeare remouing from your Garison, vntill you shall receiue further order in that behalfe. And yet wee charge you, that the band of foote, vnder your leading, may be in a full readinesse against the time that shall be next appointed for the seruice, formerly intended, and so we bid you farewell: from D, &c.

Your very louing friends,
H. W. T. R. W. S.

Superscribed,
To our welbeloued friend
N. D. Captaine of 200.
foote, at his Garison in T.

VII.

A Letter from the Generall of an Army to the Muster-master-generall, for the entring of a Captaine and his whole Band into pay.

Whereas we haue made choyce of our welbeloued *N. D.* Esquire, to command a Company of 200. foot, with Officers, and entertainments belonging to the same,

same. These are therefore to give you notice thereof, and withall, to will and require you to make entry of the said Captaine N D. in his Maiesties Checque-roles of the Musters, as Captaine of 200 foote, together with the allowance for himselfe of viij. shil. ster. per diem. for his Lieutenant of iiij. shil. ster. per diem one Ensigne at ij. shill. ster. per diem three Sergeants; two Drums, a Fyfe and a Surgion, at viij. d. ster. per diem, a peece: and 200 Souldiers at viij. d ster. per diem, a peece, the said seuerall payes & entertainements to begin the first of March, 1616. and to continue during pleasure: And further, to make forth warrants of ful pay vnto his Maiesties Treasurer of the warres, for payment hereof accordingly; and this shal be your sufficient discharge in that behalfe: from the Castle of D, &c.

Superscribed,

To our welbeloued Sir *R. I.* Knight, Muster-Master generall, and Clarke of the Checque.

VIII.

A Letter from a Councell of State, to the Iustices of any Country, for preferring a Gentleman, either to the Muster-mastership, or any other Office in their election

After our very hearty commendations; Whereas you are to haue an especiall care to the trayning of your selected Bands, and to the election of a Muster-master, sufficient for the discharge of the same place: Now vnderstanding that such a place is voyd in your Countie, we thought good to recōmend vnto you this Gentleman an W.P. who hauing of long time commanded in many of his Maiesties seruices; is, no doubt, euery way sufficient

for the ſame place, and the rather, in that he is no ſtranger nor alien amongſt you, but a Gentleman of qualitie borne, brought vp, and dwelling in your Countrie: wherefore, hoping you will not faile herein, we bid you farewel: from the Court at S. &c.

HW. TR. WS. NG.

Superſcribed,
To our very louing friends, his Maieſties Iuſtices of the Peace, within his Countie of *R.*

IX.

A Letter of conſent from a man of the moſt eminent place in his Country, for confirming the former petitioner in the place aforeſayd

AFter my hearty commendations: whereas the bearer hereof, Maſter W P. hauing bene of late a ſuitor vnto you, for the Office of Muſter-maſter, within the Countie of R. and is already aſſured of ſome of your conſents, is now deſirous that I amongſt the reſt, ſhould paſſe my liking and allowance of him: theſe are to ſignifie vnto you, that I hold him a Gentleman of ſo good a courage, temper and experience, ſo likely to doe ſeruice to his Country, and honour to the place, that as I thinke none more fit for it then he is, ſo wiſh I none but he may be admitted to it, and ſo I bid you heartily farewell: from, &c.

Your very louing friend, *C. O.*

Superſcribed,
To the right Worſhipfull, Sir *I B.* Knight, Sir *L M.* Knight, and the reſt my very good friends, the Comiſſioners for his Maieſties, Muſters, within the County of *R.*

Chartels

Chartels and Challenges with their Anſweres.

X.

An honourable Chartell or Challenge, which may be ſent from any Noble perſon, comming into a ſtrange Country, onely to ſee the wars, hauing no ſpurre, but his owne reputation.

A. Of England, to B. of France, ſendeth the greeting of a hateleſſe enemy: The liking of Partiall matters, without any miſlike of your perſon, hath brought me rather to the company then to the mind of your beſiegers; where languiſhing in idleneſſe, I deſire to refreſh my mind with ſome exerciſe of armes, which might make known the doers, with delight of the beholders: therfore, if there be any Gentleman in your Towne, that either for the loue of honour, or honour of his loue, well armed on horſebacke, will with Launce and Sword win another, or loſe himſelfe, to be a priſoner at diſcretion of the Conqueror; I will, to morrow morning by Sun-riſing, with a Trumpet and a Squyer onely, attend him in like order furniſhed: the place I thinke fitteſt, is before the walls, ſo that the Ladies may haue the pleaſure of ſeeing the Combat, which, though it be within the commandment of your Towne, I deſire no better ſecurity then the promiſe I make to my ſelfe of your vertue. I attend your anſwere, and with you ſuch ſucceſſe as may bee to your honour, rather in yeelding to that which is iuſt, then in maintaining wrong by violence.

A.

XI.

An Anſwere to the former Chartell.

B. Of France, to A. of England, witheth all his owne wiſhes ſauing thoſe which may be hurtfull to an-

other: the matter of your letter is so fit for a worthy mind and the maner so sutable to the nobleneſſe of the matter; giue me cause to thinke how happy I might account my selfe, if I could get such a friend, who esteeme it no small happines to haue met with so noble an enemy: your challenge shall bee answered, and both time and place, and weapon accepted. For your security from my treachery (hauing no hostage worthy to counteruaile you) take my word, which I esteeme aboue all respects: prepare therefore your armes to fight, but not your heart to malice, since true valour needs no other whetstone then desire of honour.

B.

XII.

Another honourable Chartell of the same nature, and for the same purpose.

RIght famous Syr, if my perswasion in reason, or prayer in good will, might prevaile with you, you should, by better meanes, be like to obtaine your desire, you shold make many braue enemies become your faithfull seruants, and make your honour flye vp to heauen, being carried vp by both the wings of valor and iustice, whereof now it wants the latter. But since my suite nor counsaile can get place in you, disdaine not to receiue a mortal challenge from a man so farre inferiour vnto you in vertue, as that I doe not so much mislike the deed as I haue the doer in admiration: prepare therefore your selfe, according to the noble manner of a souldier, and thinke not lightly of neuer so weake an arme, which strikes with the sword of Iustice.

D.

An

XIII.

An anſwere to this Chartell.

MUch more famous D. I whom neuer threatnings would make afraid, am now terrified by your noble curteſie; for wel I know from what height of vertue it doth proceede, and what cauſe I haue to doubt ſuch vertue, bent to my ruine: but right, which iuſtifieth the iniuſtice you lay vnto me, doth alſo animate me againſt all danger; ſince I am full of him by whom your ſelfe deſires euer to be gouerned: I will therefore attend you before the walls, carrying this aduantage with me, that as it ſhall bee a ſingular honour if I get the victory, ſo there can be no diſhonour in being ouercome, by D.

XIIII.

Another Chartell of the ſame nature, and to the ſame purpoſe, onely proceeding from an angry enemy vnknown.

TO thée H. of England, an vnknowne knight wiſheth health and courage, that by my hand thou mayſt receiue punishment for thy treaſon, according to thine own offer, which wickedly occaſioned, thou haſt proudly begun, and accurſedly maintained; I will preſently, (if thy mind faint thee not for his own guiltineſſe) meet thée before the walls; or if the time, place and weapon like thée not, I am ready to take thine owne reaſonable choiſe in any of them, ſo as thou doe performe the ſubſtance. Make me ſuch anſwere, as may ſhew that thou haſt ſome taſte of honour: and ſo I leaue thée to liue till I meete thee.

Anonimus.

XV.

An anſwere to this Chartell.

VNknown Knight, though your nameleſſe challenge might carry in it ſelfe excuſe for a man of my birth and eſtate, yet herein ſet your heart at reſt, you ſhall bee ſatiſfied, I will, without ſtay, anſwer you before the walls and come both armed in your ſelfish threatnings, and yet the more fearleſſe, expecting weake blowes, where I find ſo ſtrong words: you ſhall not therefore long attend me, before I make teach you, that of my life you haue made your ſelfe too large a promiſe: in the meane time farewel.

E

XVI.

The forme of a Chartell or Challenge, which may bee ſent from one King vnto another, wherein the ground, and occaſion of the quarrell, is mentioned, for the auoyding of exceptions and delayes.

VVE E H. by the grace of God King of B. to you C. by the ſame grace King of S. We doe you to vnderſtand, that in all the anſwares that you haue made to our Embaſſadors and Heralds, ſent to you for the eſtabliſhing of peace, in excuſing your ſelfe without reaſon: you haue accuſed vs, ſaying that we haue plight you our faith, and broken the ſame. In defence of our honour, which hereby might be burdened too much, againſt all truth, we thought good to ſend you this writing, by which we giue you to vnderſtand, that for the ſatiſfying of all men, and our ſaid Honour, which wee deſire to keepe, if it pleaſe God, vnto death; that if you haue charged, or will charge vs not only with our faith, but the

breach

breach thereof, or that euer we did any thing that became not a Gentleman who had reſpect to his Honor, that you lye falſely in your throat, and as oft as you ſay it you do lye: and we doe determine, to defend our honour to the vttermoſt drop of our bloud. Wherefore, ſeeing you haue charged vs againſt all truth, write no more to vs hereafter, but appoint vs the field, and wee will bring you the weapons, proteſting, that if after this declaration, you write into any place, or vſe any words againſt our honour, that the ſhame of the delay of the combate ſhal light on you, ſeeing that the offering of combate is the end of writing: Dated at our Towne and Citie of P. the 20. day of March, Anno Dom. 1616. H.

XVII.

A rough Chartell ſent from a Commander in the warres, to a man of like place, hauing done publike iniury to his Superiour.

SYR,

IF eyther your birth or bringing vp had wrought in your noble mind, or eſtimation of credit, hardly would you haue ſo much forgotten and ſtained your Honour, as in a Parle of late with our Generall you did, at whom vildly and diſhonourably ſhooting, you falſed that aſſurance of war which Souldiers ſubmit themſelues vnto, and trained him to your treaſon vnder truſt: a thing heretofore not accuſtomed, nor preſently to be allowed of: he aſſuredly pretending your owne, and your friends good, commodity to your Country, and quietneſſe to the ſtate. But your pride ioined with a harmfull meaning, to thoſe which you profeſſe beſt vnto, and ſelfe wilful vaine glory without cauſe why; refuſed that which reaſon and Honour commanded you to haue done: Therefore, becauſe his calling is preſently with his charge better thē yours, and mine not inferiour, I ſummon you reaſonably to excuſe

cuſe that fault ſuppoſed to be yours, or elſe maintain that traiterous act, with your perſon againſt mine in fight, when, where, and how you dare; otherwiſe I will baffell your good name, ſound with the Trumpet your dishonor, paint your picture with the heeles vpward, and beat it in deſpight of your ſelfe; in the meane time, I attend your anſwere: from the Campe. G.G.

XVIII.

A Chartell or challenge from an inferiour, hauing receiued groſſe wrongs from a Superiour.

SYR:

The greatneſſe of your birth and place, is no priuiledge to do iniury to any that is free-borne, and the wrongs you haue done me are vnavoideable: the ſatisfaction wherof, your owne generous nature (I know) will both acknowledge and propoſition: wherefore, appoint time, place, and weapon, without aduantage, & you ſhall find me ready to maintaine the aſſertion of your euill doing. This, if your greatnes (which is nothing, if it be not accompanied with godnes) ſhal make you either neglect or delay, you will force me to publiſh that (which yet I am not apt to beleeue) you are not vertuous. T.H.

XIX.

A generall Challenge, which may paſſe betweene any Gentlemen, the quarrell being foule and not doubtfull.

SYR:

My wrongs ſpeak in ỹ worlds generall knowledge, and craue from you aſſignement of time, place and armes, vndiſaduantageable, your vertue can inſtruct you in the propoſitions, the manner I refer to this Gentleman my ſecond. T. Q.

XX.

A Chartell or Challenge conditionall, having reference to ſome doubt.

SYR:

IT is a generall report in the Worlds mouth, that you are both the author and reporter of theſe words; firſt, That I haue diſhonourably broken my faith in the warres, by abandoning my Colours in the time of beſt action: and laſtly, laid imputations on my Captaine, both without deſert or iudgement. Theſe ſpeeches if you acknowledge (as vertue will not deny her actions for danger) you muſt be pleaſed to vnderſtand from this Letter, that you haue little affinitie with truth, for you haue ſpoken groſſe falſe-hoods, which I will euer maintaine & approue in any Gentleman-like poſture of your own election. Therefore, I beſeech you, let mee receiue from you ſuch ſatiſfaction as may vertuouſly agree with an vnmalicious truth, either in affirmation or deniall, and you ſhall finde me prepared honeſtly for either's entertainement.

R. P.

XXI.

An anſwere to the former Chartell, giuing a ſufficient ſatisfaction to the doubt, and retorting the iniurie.

SYR:

YOu call me to ſo ſayre an account, that I cannot chuſe but deliuer you an honeſt reckoning of my vertue: Therefore, be pleaſed to beleeue, vnder this proteſtation, that theſe ſpeeches wherwith you burthen my reputatiõ, did neuer proceed from me, nor haue my lips at any time deliuered from them word or matter to that purpoſe. And albeit you make the world your Author, yet I know a Gentleman of your worthineſſe & iudgement will neuer

enter into an oppoſition of this nature without a ground of greater value and certainty, whence I muſt for mine owne ſatiſfaction, demaund of you an author perſonall, without diſparagement, againſt whom I will iuſtifie the contradiction of his ſlaunder. This right if any former ceremony ſhall make you denie me, beſides the vnlawfulneſſe of ſuch ſecrecie, you will giue me libertie to coniecture, that your ſelfe onely is to your ſelfe an euill inſtrument, and that I haue no other accuſer but malice.

R. O.

XXII.

A Chartell or Challenge of an vnworthy nature, being ſuch, as al Gentlemen of vertue ſhould forbeare to imitate, though the aduerſary were neuer ſo vnworthy.

SYrrah, the baſeneſſe of thy villanous nature, hauing prouoked thee to doe me iniurie, I entend to ſcourge with my ſword, which ſhall diuide a wicked life from a more wicked bodie: therefore, vnderſtand by this ſedule, that neither drunkenneſſe (to which thou art naturally adicted) nor frenzie (which thy pride hath put vpon thee) ſhall be any excuſe for thy ſlauiſh moſt demeanour, but that with my ſword I will thruſt thoſe lyes thou haſt deliuered downe thy throat, and thorow thy heart into thy guts; therefore, if thy Cowardlineſſe dare aduenture vpon ſuch a buſineſſe, appoint time, place, and weapon, and I will meete thee, and approue vpon thee that thou art a villaine.

L. N.

An

XXIII.

An anſwere as vnmannerly as the Challenge was vnwoorthy, both ſet downe, not for imitation, but ſcorne, though ſome men of good place in this Kingdome, haue vſed.

Syrrah, I haue receiued thy baſe rayling Letter, from which feminine humour I gather the colde cowardly groſſenes of thy ſpirit, ſpending it ſelfe ſo much in woords, that in action, I feare, it will not dare to encounter with a ſhadow, the woorld hauing euer noted thee for a coward and all thy companions derided as a braggart of filthy eſtimation. But in as much as your ſaucineſſe is now growne vnto the hight of impudency, ſet your heart at reſt, for I will put you to the touch of your beſt ſtrength; and from the bearer hereof, my friend, you ſhall receiue notice both of the time and place, and with your eyes behold the weapons of mine election, which I doubt not but with the expence of thy beſt bloud ſhall naile the villaine faſt to thine owne boſome: and ſo farewell, till I come to plauge and ſcourge thee.

M. Q.

XXIIII.

A fooliſh Challenge, ſent from one who neither had wit nor courage, but a fooliſh prouocation.

Syrrah T. the wrongs thou haſt done me are ſo groſſe and notorious, that I cannot with my reputation put them vp: and although thou denieſt when thou gaueſt me the lye, that thou diddeſt it in diſgrace of me, yet vpon conſideration, I finde it muſt needs be done with a diſgracefull minde, though thou didſt like a coward deny it. I haue learned not to hazard my knight-hood vpon mine inferiours.

ferioure, Eſquyres of low degree, but if thou make mee not ſome honeſt ſatiſfaction, thou wilt vrge me to forget my place: farewell, I hope thou wilt be wiſe: yours as you vſe him. A. C.

XXV.

An anſwere from a merrie wit, ſutable with the former folly.

KArrant, or arrant A: As the wrongs you pretend I haue done you, were yours by right, ſo I will doe you right and iuſtifie them, for I loue to giue euer the Diuell his due: I denied indeede that I meant your diſgrace, by giuing the lye, becauſe I knew it a diſgrace without all queſtion to haue the lye, and a ſtale ignorance to call it into queſtion, I beleeue you would be very loath to hazard your Knighthood, yet you muſt, if you will fetch ſatiſfaction, for what I intend to giue is at my meeting with you to morrow morning, about ſixe of the clocke in the Vale, betweene the Heath and Riuer: I haue ſent you my Rapier, paralell both it and my ſeconds by this Gentleman: farewell

Superſcribed,

To the Honorable Knight,

Syr A. C.

XXVI.

An anſwere to a Challenge where the appealants aſſertion is not doubtfull, and ſo the defendant not tyed to the tryall of the ſword

SYR:

THE tryals of the ſword are onely in caſe of doubts vndiſcuſſable, and not tyed to the indiſcreet will of euery deſperate oppoſition, for that were both to confound iuſtice

iuſtice and reaſon: therefore, I would haue you pleaſed to know, that the imputation which you would excuſe by accuſing mee of falſehood, is ſo cleere and manifeſtly knowne to the world, that the record thereof is regiſtred in an honourable Court; whence all errour is depriued, ſo that the remembrance thereof cannot chuſe but inſtruct you in your miſconceit, and beare that falſehood backe to your ſelfe, which you would wrongfully impoſe on another: for it were monſtrous if a man ſhould bee bound to defend with his ſword, whether it were day, when the Sunne ſhined, I or no, and ſuch like is your quarrell; therefore, if the itch of your courage muſt needs be allayd by my Rapier, ellect a ground of more certaine doubt, and I will anſwere it with my beſt vertue: in the meane ſpace be ſatiſfied that all the beſt ſpirits of this nation will thinke I haue herein giuen your inſufficient call a ſufficient ſatisfaction. T. W.

XXVII.

A reply by the former challenger, againe to vrge the field.

SYR:

YOur inſtructions are not to me vnknowne, neyther doe I diſalow your euaſion, yet thus farre you muſt giue me leaue both to expound my ſelfe and my Letter, that I call you not to an account for the reports, whether they be true, I or no, but for the malice you made apparant in ſuch triuiall diſcourſes, which, for-aſ-much as it is a paſſion wicked and diſhonourable, I hold it the part of euery Gentleman of vertue, to defend himſelfe from ſuch a vicious imputation. And here I do accuſe you to be a Gentleman full of rancour and hatred, and what you haue reported of me, hath been onely to diſplay your much malicioufneſſe, which I will maintaine with my ſword, where any indifferency ſhall appoint me.

R. O.

XXVIII.

An anſwere to this ſecond call, wherein the field is likewiſe auoyded

SYR:

YOV trauell now from wayes vnreaſonable, into pathes impoſſible, wherein it ſeemes to me you diſplay a diſpoſition both abſurd and cruell: for if you allow my reports not to be in queſtion, what a tyrannous boldneſſe is it in you to become the ſearcher & vnderſtander of my thoughts (which is a power onely in the power of the higheſt) and yet neither by circumſtance, or ſuggeſtion, giue the world any inducements to proue me ſo inclined? But Syr, both for the auoyding of your further trouble in writing, and your more diſgrace in inſufficiently writing: I am content thus far to ſatiſfie the world, and your ſelfe (which otherwiſe will be but vſurpers of knowledge) that what I haue any wayes ſpoken of you, as it was true, ſo it was vtterly without touch of malice or hatred; againſt which you cannot affirme, in that my thoughts are knowne to my ſelfe and to no other mortall creature.

T. W.

XXIX.

An anſwere to any Challenge which comes from any Seruant to a Free-man.

SYR:

I Haue receiued your modeſt call, and would willingly doe you right therein, onely there is the difference betwixt vs, that I feare I ſhall double your iniurie: for in asmuch as ſeruitude makes you at mothers, and not at your owne commandement, how can you be capable of the honour of your aduerſaries appointment? Therefore you muſt be pleaſed, eyther to forſake ſeruice or your right in challenges, (a choiſe diſtaſtefull to your ſpirit) for till

you

you can become an equall, you may not lawfully enter into matters of equality: yet because you shall not baptize mine aduantage with eyther feare, or cruelty, I am content to giue you my rights, assuring you I wil attend the houres of your owne election: L. O.

XXX.

A generall answere to any honest and sufficient Chattell.

SYR:

YOur call is like your selfe, full of vertuous anger, to which, with all willingnesse, I wil giue satisfaction: therfore, I beseech you, giue credence to this Gentleman my seconds, who shall giue you the time and place, and make mine election for the weapon.

Yours, *T. A.*

Amorous Epistles, containing matter of loue or accompliment.

XXXI.

An Epistle which may come from any woman of worth, eyther to her Father, chiefe friend, or guardian, who not affecting her choyse in loue, seeke not only to diuorce it, but with all violence and aduantages pursue her friend, euen vnto death.

SYR:

WHat you will determine of me, it is to me vncertaine; but what I haue determined of my selfe I am most certaine, which is no longer to enioy my life, then I may enioy him for my husband whom the heauens

for

for my highest glory haue bestowed vpon me: if you please to kill him, execute me, let my throat satisfie the hunger of murder; for alas, what hath he done that had not his originall in me: Loke vpon him, I beseech you, with indifferency, and see whether in those eyes al vertue shines not: see whether that face can hide a blemish: Take leysure to know him, and then your selfe will say it hath bin to great an inhumanitie to suspect such excellency. Are the Gods, thinke you, deceiued in their workmanshippe: Artificers will not vse Parble but to noble vses: should those powers be so ouer-shot as to frame so precious an Image of their own, but to honorable purposes: O speak with me, O heare me, O know him, and become not the putter out of the worlds light. Hope you to please heauen by hurting him it loueth aboue all the world: I beseech you let not his losse make you accursed of the whole earth, and of al posterity, he is a Gentleman of eminence: why should you hinder mine aduancement, who if I haue past my child-hood hurtlesse to any, if I haue refused no body to doe what good I could, if I haue often mitigated your anger, euer sought to maintaine your fauour; nay, if I haue held you deerer then my life, robbe me not of more then my life comes vnto: Teare not that which is inseparable ioyned to my soule, but if he rest misliked of you (which O God how can it be!) yet giue him to me, let mee haue him, you know I pretend no right to your estate: therefore, it is but a priuate petition I make vnto you: or if you be hard heartedly bent to appoint otherwise (which O sooner let me dye then know) then to end as I began, let me by you be ordered to my last end, without for more cruelty you meane to force me to vse mine owne hands to kill one of your children.

The saddest F.

An

XXXII.

An Epiſtle neare of the ſame nature, but is to be ſent from a Gentlewoman, whoſe Parents being dead, is left to the tuition of friends, and they only are aduerſe and oppoſite to her choyſe in Loue.

IN ſuch a ſtate (Gentlemen) you haue placed me, as I can neither write nor be ſilent; for how can I be ſilent ſince you haue left mée nothing but my ſolitary, words to teſtifie my miſery, and how ſhould I write, who neither can reſolue what to write, nor to whom to write? What to write it is hard for me to ſay, as what I may not write; ſo little hope haue I of any ſucceſſe, and ſo much hath no iniury béen left vndone to me-ward. To whom to write where may I learne, ſince yet I wot not how to intitle you? Shall I call you my Soueraignes, ſet downe your lawes that I may doe homage? Shall I fall lower, and name you my Kinſmen? ſhew mee your bloods in your loue: But ſhall I name my ſelfe the Piſtreſſe of my ſelfe? alas, no; I am your priſoner: But whatſoeuer I be, or whatſoeuer you be, O all you beholders of theſe dolefull lines, this doe I ſignifie vnto you, and ſignifie it with a heart that ſhall euer remaine in that opinion, the good or euill you do to him I loue. I will euer impute it as eyther way done to mine owne perſon; he is a Gentleman, and worthy to be my husband, and ſo is he my husband, by me worthily choſen. Beléeue it, beléeue it, eyther you ſhall be murderers by killing me, or if you let me liue, the killers of him ſhall ſmart as murderers: for what doe you thinke I can thinke; am I ſo childiſh, as not to ſée wherein you touch him you wound mee? can his ſhame be without my reproach? no, nor ſhall be, ſince nothing he hath done that I will not auow. Is this the comfort you bring me, to make me fuller of ſhame then ſorrow? Would you doe this if it were not with full intention to

preuent my power with slaughter: and so do I pray you, it is high time for me to be weary of my life tho long lev, since you are weary of me, before you haue power in me. I say againe, I say it infinitely vnto you, I will not liue without him if it be not to reuenge him; either doe iustly in saving both, or wikely in killing both: if I be your better, I command his preseruation, if your inferiour, I beg it, for I take all truth to witnesse, he is worthy and vertuous. Therefore to conclude, in wronging him you wrong me; neither conceiue with your selues that your iniuries aspyre to the life of a stranger, but euen to the life of your vnfortunate kinswoman. P. D.

XXXIII.

An answere vnto the two former Epistles.

IF the loue to your person (Madam) and the great obligation betwixt my soule and your noble deceased fathers (to which the eye of the highest was fired for a witnesse) haue stirred vp in you so many perturbations, both of spirit and body, that it hath taken from you all excellent remembrances and cogitations worthy the meditation of your vertue, so that forgetting your self, you breed a neglect of your vnspotted reputation. I beseech you, be pleased to let me awaken your knowledge, and stirre vp your considerations with the iustification of mine honest and sincere designes, which euer haue had eyes fired only vpon our vertuous aduancement. First, for the residence of your person, so much displeasing vnto you, through the solitude therof: albeit, I must cõfesse it is barren of those confluences of time-serving tongues, whose flattering musicke onely pleaseth the discreet eare, but for a little season; yet is it so sufficiently stored with honest & faithfull plainesse (the best comerce for vertue) that howeuer now swayed with the billow of your passion, hereafter

I.

I hope your wisdome will neither doubt of your speech or silence, nor to whome to impart your bosomes directions, since my faith and seruice (euer versed in the preoccupation and busines of your good) shall neuer deserue to become such a stranger to your goodnesse. Touching the Gentleman, your election, I neither deny his worthinesse of person or estate, but affirme his much vnfitnes, both in respect of his already nerenes in affinity, wherby your house shall be no more then formerly strengthened, as also his abode & comorance in a far remoued country; wherby your owne country being depriued of those comforts which their hopes haue tediously expected, there shall redound vnto it nothing but a depriuation of those blessings, and a strong feare of the deuastation of those costly Buildings which your auncestors haue erected to couer their names, and giue relefe to their neighbours, till the last day of the worlds continuance. But you feare his murther, as if my gainestanding his affection should compell his griefe (being accompanied with dispayre) stylle him: alas (Madam) such thoughts are but supererogating workes of your faith, which in a person of lesse merit would appeare to gaudily clothed in selfe-loue; for neither doe I thinke his heat is so violent, nor his resolution so irreligiously constant for his owne destruction, especially since such actions doe deprine men of all worthy and good titles whatsoeuer. Neither shall any outrage in him breed imputation of guiltinesse in me; my bond of duety calling mee to the preuention of any euill, into which yoke shal either imbarke your honour or hopes to come, which motiue when your excellent iudgement hath examined and poysed in the scale of vertue: you will thinke him far vnworthy of threatnings, much lesse of reuenge, who will euer liue to obay all your modest commaunds.

L. E.

XXXIIII.

An amorous Epiſtle onely complementall, which may paſſe betwene any two perſons, of what degree ſoeuer.

IT is not the eye (my deereſt and beſt reſpected Siſtris) which taketh in the excellency of true loue, and by the vertue of its intelligence, maketh the heart onely capable of all loue, faith and conſtancy, as if, being depriued the beſt iudging ſence, it could diſcerne nothing but by a Herauld or inſtruction; making that maymed and diſfigured which is the nobleſt, beſt accompliſht, and the moſt excellent in the whole worke of nature: No (my deereſt) the heart is not the borrower of thoſe lights, but hauing all his communication and frequency with the diuine ſoule; like the Sunne which is both the eye and ſpirit of Nature, lendeth from his owne cleare beams thoſe excellencies of reſolution and faithfulneſſe which makes our loues renowned for the vertue of truely and worthily louing; for it is moſt certaine, that the loue which taketh vp his lodging onely in the eyes cloſet of admiration, and is but thence recommended to the hearts conſiderations; it is a loue as inſubſtanciall as a ſhaddow, and no longer to be retained then a ſound, which the eare in his beſt liking loſeth. This I write (Siwart) that you may know (as long as truth holds his place in your knowledge) that the affection which perpetually is made one with my heart, ſprang from no delight or amazement of mine eyes, (into which onely the excellency of colours do inſinuate) but from Iudgement, deliberation, and reſolution, the hearts three faithfulleſt and beſt deſeruing counſailors, ſo that your vertues and worthy parts, hauing inſeperably fired in me the remembrance & acknowledgement of your perfections, my hope is, that no cuſtomary copneſſe, which is but the falſe title and motley-garment of diſcretion

ſhall

ſhall eyther diſcourage my proceedings (which haue only vertue for their conduit) nor delay my hopes, which are onely perfect, in that they hope nothing but what is moſt ſutable with an honourable reputation. If the infancy of your knowledge, yet too young to iudge my merit, becauſe time hath preſented me, but as a ſtranger to your ſight, make you feare to imbark the treaſure of your loue into a veſſell of whoſe ſoundneſſe you are vncertaine (albeit the outward face neuer ſo richly imbelliſhed) know, that euen vnto rumour himſelfe, who is moſt vnacquainted to ſpeak well by the nobleſt perfection (ſlander and he being ſeldome or neuer vncoupled) I dare boldly proſtitute both my good name and actions, aſſured that enuie is not ſo deſtitute of fit ſubiects to caſt his malices vpon, as he will attract the leaſt drop of his poyſon, to deface that image of my vertue, which hath hitherto lined cleer, free, and vndeſpighted: to which conſiderations when truth ſhall giue his vndoubted affirmation, then my hope is, you will thinke him worthy, who will euer liue and dye your admirer. R. C.

XXXV.

A blunt Epiſtle from an honeſt true affection.

MIſtris, I loue you honeſtly, and deſire to enioy you faithfully: my birth is not hid, nor mine actions concealed, mine eſtate hath no couerture but the ayre, nor my priuate wealth any purſe, but mens knowledges. If your eye can be ſatisfied with the one, and your mind with the other, without accomplements (the guilt of falſehood) you ſhall finde that faith, care, and frugall ſerioufneſſe, which ſhall expire you but with my breath onely: with vertue I ſeeke to winne you, with vertue I will euer keep you, and till vertue ſhall be vtterly conſumed, I will be euer faithfull. R. R.

XXXVI.

An Epiſtle which may come from any man of good place, to any woman of worthineſſe, on whom his loue doateth with ſo much violence, that hee is euen at the point of death with the extreamity thereof.

MOſt bleſſed Paper, which ſhalt kiſſe that hand where-to all bleſſednesſe is in nature a ſeruant, do not diſdaine to carry with thée the woful words of a Myſer now deſpayring: neither be afrayd to appeare before her, bearing the baſe title of the ſender; for no ſoner ſhall that diuine hand touch thée, but that thy baſeneſſe ſhall be turned to moſt high preferment. Therefore mourne boldly mine Inke, for while ſhe lookes vpon you, your blackeneſſe will ſhine: cry out boldly my lamentations, for while ſhe reads you, your cries will be muſick: ſay then (O happy meſſenger of a moſt vnhappy meſſage) that the too ſone borne, too late dying creature, which dares not ſpeake, no not looke, no not ſcarcely thinke (as from his miſerable ſelfe vnto her heauenly highneſſe) only preſumes to deſire thee (in the times that her eyes and voice doe exalt thee) to ſay, and in this manner to ſay, not from him; O no, that were not fit, but of him, thus much vnto her ſacred iudgement. O you the onely honour to women; to men, the only admiration, you that being armed by loue defie him that armed you, in this high eſtate wherin you haue placed me; yet let me remember him to whom I am bound for bringing me to your preſence, and let me remember him, who (ſince he is yours, how meane ſoeuer hee be) it is reaſon you haue an account of him. The wretch (yet your wretch) though with languiſhing ſteps runs faſt to his graue, and will you ſuffer a Temple (how poorly built ſoeuer, but yet a Temple of your diety) to be razed? but he dieth, it is moſt true, he dyeth, and he in whom you liue, to obay you dieth, whereof though he

plaine,

plaine, hee doth not complaine, for it is a harme, but no wrong, which he hath receiued: he dyes, because in wofull language, all his senses tell him that such is your pleasure; for since you will not that he liue, alas, alas, what followeth of your ruined seruant but his end? End then most euill destined man, end, and end thou wofull Letter, end: for it sufficeth her wisedome to know, that her heauenly will shall be accomplished, by her onely dispairefull Catife: Anonimus.

XXXVII.

Another amorous Epistle of like nature, but not full so violent.

TIme and knowledge, the only forteriers of the mind, in all worthy and vertuous opinions, haue with so constant a resolution (my onely dearest and best respected Mistresse) setled your perfectiõs in my deuinest part, that neither Alexander with his sword, nor the diuell with any slanderous imputation, can diuide or vntwiste the least part of that knot which tyes mee eternally to your seruice, and albeit the best of worthinesse, is euer (& proud it euer may so be) a continual attendant on your vertues, and so out of the wealth of such merit may make my loyalty neglected, yet shall the contention of my faith so vnresistably striue for the supreamest eminence (as not to be exceeded by any brest of greatnes) that when your iudgement shall call all your creatures into a comparatiue account, none shall come nére me either for loue or continuance: many other protestations I could make, but none more able, more effectuall; and therefore, since all hold their alyance with truth, and truth so inseparably toyned with my soule, that death hath not authority to byge diuorcement betwéene them, let me (O you all-best of your sexe) humbly beséech you, to entertaine with beléefe into your memory the knowledge of my faithfull loue, that thence

thence I may gaine the hope of ſome noble pittie, and from your pitty the bleſt grace, which is the God of a louers Fortune. This if you will vouchſafe to a merit as ſtrong in it own beleeue, as you are noble in the worlds opinion, you ſhal not only be the Creator of all bliſſe, which ſhall accompany my dayes, but fill euery minute in them with a ſtudious obſeruation, how to be more and more thankefull in my ſeruice: the contrary whereof, when you ſhall adminiſter to my miſſortunes, ſo deſperate a diſpayrefulneſſe will fire it ſelfe with the eaſie beleefe of mine vnworthineſſe, that a ſodaine and abortiue death will be the beſt end of my wretchednesſe, how euer being your ſlaue, it is your boyce muſt bring me manumiſſion, or binde mee to continue eternally in the labour of affliction: to which I will ſubmit with ſuch patience, that your ſelfe ſhall not forbeare to proue againſt your ſelfe, that I am only your trueſt ſeruant: S. G.

XXXVIII.

A modeſt anſwere negatiue, which may come from any Gentlewoman of place to her Sutor.

SYR:

THe exceſſe of your proteſtations bring in me a little iealouſie of beleefe, both becauſe I am aſſured that truth is ſo modeſt & temperate in euery faculty of its own worthines, that it hateth Hyperboles, & ſupererogating works of too much prayſe, as alſo, in that reaſon (which is the ſoundeſt counſellor to a weake iudgement) inſtructs me, that the plaineſt loue hath euer the plaineſt garments, coueting rather to be tranſparent & viewed through, then with this armed ſhelter of accomplementall proteſtations, to diſfigure much the countenance of true meaning. Neither can you make me ſo ambitious, to beleeue that ſuch eppithetons as you linke me vnto, are either mine by inheritance, or yours any longer then ſhadow-like they attend, and follow the Sun-ſhine of your Pen, cuſtome

and

and imitation, hauing taught you in this diſſembling age, the Art of guilding ſo perfectly, and with ſo little coſt, that rather then you will neglect your art, you will imploy your paines vpon earth, or the moſt deſpiſed images: for mine owne part, I am not vnacquainted that ſuch labors are euer apparelled with ſcorne, neither will I flye with wings which will melt to behold the Suns countenance: therefore, pardon mee that I cannot thanke you for my praiſe, nor beleeue the vanity of your proteſtations, I loue: with whom I haue vowed all ſtrangneſſe of affection, and bitter diſknowledge for euer, hauing no more power to worke vpon my ſoule, then you ſence to feele the paſſions which me. Hence, I beſeech you, Syr, let proceede a deſiſtance of ſolicitation, for neither I can, will, nor may, aſſent to your deſires: both my ſelfe and thoſe greater powers which onely haue power to direct and gouerne mee, being ſo appoſite to what you entreat, that impoſſibility is onely left to aſſure you, that what time you ſpend hereafter in this nature is loſt and fruitleſſe. Your worth I acknowledge to bee noble and vnſpotted, and thence your merit to proceede whatſoeuer in mee to account excellent, giuing your fortunes vndoubtable reſolutions, that you may enioy the beſt of thoſe which walk in a ranke before me: but for my ſelfe, there is neither hope, neither poſſibility, which aſſurance I doubt not, but will ſo fortifie your wiſedome; to alter the courſe of your loue, that I ſhall liue free hereafter from this Pen-trouble: in requitall of which merit, none ſhall exceede me in good wiſhes for your aduancement, or with chaſte thoughts better eſteeme you then.

M. N.

XXXIX.

An other amorous anſwere affirmatiue, with ſome doubt, which may be ſent from any diſcreet Gentlewoman to her Sutor.

SYR:

I Could haue wiſht your loue had come clothed in this Paper, with leſſe circumſtance and more plainenelle, for ſo ſhould I haue bene more capable of your chaſte intent, and my braine leſſe troubled in the deciſion of your loue which the garments of good words makes doubtfull and much ſubiect to cenſure: but I am charitable, and will beleeue (till your errour make me more ſound in iudgement) that in the faire field of your proteſtations, no tempting Serpent lurking to vndoe mine honour, being a companion ſo deare to my ſoule, that when it ſhall receiue the leaſt iniurie, my body ſhall periſh for euer. But to auoyd that vanity of which I taſke you, be pleaſed to vnderſtand, that if eyther mine eye or eare might be iudges of my fortunes, or their intelligence had power to giue ſatiſfaction to all which gouernes me, then I could put al doubts and ſcruples from your remembrance, becauſe I neither ſee in your perſon any thing to diſlike me, nor haue heard of your eſtate to be otherwiſe then may well ſort with your place and reputation. But Syr, you muſt know I haue not intereſt in the moytie of my ſelfe, being by mine owne gift ſo eſtranged from mine owne deſires, that I cannot without vſurpation ſay any of my ſerious thoghts are at my owne diſpoſure. I haue, Syr, a Father, whoſe worthy iudgement is (and worthy euer to be) ſo potent ouer me, that not onely my perſon, but euen my thoughts are wholy to be deſpiſed by him: him if you pleaſe to ſolicite, and make his wiſedome commend your vertuous deſires to my conſideration, there is no doubt but my eaſie beliefe may ſone be traduced to imagine that there is nothing in your loue but honour and goodneſſe. The contraries whereof, it ſhall pleaſe to anner with his opinion,

be-

be then assured it is as impossible to wrest mee from the like thoughts, as for the Infant Hyla to take by force the Club from his Master Hercules. If the labour of this double paynes bréed in you any discouragement, you cannot too earely desist, nor to soone giue me ease of a néedelesse trouble; your worth will make you frequent with better choyse, & my contract with wisedome against passion, will euer fortifie me to liue without the knowledge of vnrelieuing repentance. Thus you haue both mine & your own resolution in your bosome, agree them or seperate them, both are to me indifferent, and charitie shall euer make me your chaste well-wisher.

XLI.

Another answere affirmatiue, when friends and all parts are satisfied.

SYR:

THis action of marriage, which is the last date of a womans libertie, being for the dignitie fearefull, and for the seriousnesse worthy our carefullest considerations, is to me such a bug-beare full of Chymerean shapes, that I oft start and tremble at such shadowes: onely I am so much fortified in your noble loue, & the true constancy of your well setled affection, to which your vowes and my friends satisfactions hang as seales, that I haue banisht all oppositions, and doe now boldly giue my loue and honour into your protection, hoping you will as carefully preserue them, as I haue dearely and with all stricktnes of thought nourisht them, in which you shall shew a vertue worthy your goodnesse, and make me contend in my fayth and seruiceable to excéede the best example of my sexe, for being onely conquered by your vertue no tribute, is sufficient but this, that I will euer liue and dye your faithfullest. M.N.

XLI.

An Epiſtle of Loue from a plaine Country man, to any woman his equall.

BOth repoꝛt (Mary) and mine owne eyes haue aſſured me of your ſufficiency in all thoſe good things which ſhould appertaine to a woman of your place, and from thence my loue hath taken ſuch ſure roote; that it can neither wither noꝛ periſh whiles my life laſts: what I am you know, oꝛ at leaſt may from your neighbours intelligence: as foꝛ my ſubſtance, I náde not in this Letter make the audite thereof, becauſe when your friends ſhall call it in account, their owne eyes ſhall giue them the reckoning, onely it is your honeſt affection which I intreat, to which I will ioyne mine, with ſo good a meaning, that howſoeuer any man may enuy me, yet you ſhall haue cauſe neuer to accuſe my breach of pꝛomiſe: moꝛe woꝛds I would vtter, but moꝛe ſubſtance I cannot tender, thereꝛoꝛe expecting your anſwere, I reſt your euer moſt aſſured,

T.D.

XLII.

An anſwer of deniall to the former Epiſtle.

THomas, I am not as you, either beholden to repoꝛt, oꝛ mine eyes: foꝛ any goodneſſe that is contained in you, which makes me doubt, if I ſhould ſéeke to intelligence, I ſhould finde nothing to giue me contentment; thereꝛoꝛe you muſt know, my loue hauing no roꝛt, it is impoſſible foꝛ you to expect any fruit from my loue: as foꝛ my knowledge of you, it is ſo little, it is not woꝛthy the examination: and foꝛ my friends, calling your liuing to account, I will ſaue them that labour, foꝛ it is moſt certaine, I neyther can noꝛ will giue you mine affection: many

many circumſtances binding me thereunto: therefore, if you pleaſe hereafter both to ſpare your words and your wooing, you ſhall both giue me pleaſure, and your ſelfe eaſe, making me ſo much beholden to your little trouble, that I will euer liue your friend.

M. B.

XLIII.

Another anſwere of graunting to the deſire of the Sutor.

YOu néede not (Thomas) appeale to theſe witneſſes of your loue, ſeeing both your owne honeſty and my beliefe will euer perſwade you from mocking of a ſimple Mayden, whom you may ſooner delude with diſhoneſt practiſe, then any way aduance by your beſt affection. But the truth is, I know you to be diſcreet and good, which are bonds ſufficient to keepe you from euill doing; therefore, as you haue wonne me with your loue and diſcretion, ſatisfied my friends with your meanes & honeſt behauiour: ſo I pray you couet to keepe me with the like vertues, for though many haue moe words, yet none ſhal haue more loue, nor you find your ſelfe more deerely eſtéemed in any boſome, then in mine, that will euer faithfully loue you, and faithfully liue yours for euer.

M. B.

XLIIII.

An amorous Epiſtle of an olde Man to a young Mayd, of good parts and parentage.

IT is but ỹ enuy of youth (ſweet heart) which layeth imputations vpon age, making it diſable, apt to frenzie, vnſound, vnſauory, and vncleanely, which indeed are attributes onely appropriate to themſelues, the

firſt ſpringing from their vngrowne ripeneſſe: the ſecond from heate of blood: the third from their luſts: the fourth from vnwaſted corruptions, & the laſt from neglectiue careleſneſſe: all in generall eſchewing the comerce with wiſedome, in whom age is euer conuerſant. Beléeue it, youth onely imagineth what they would haue vs, but we aſſuredly know what they are, who frameth fayre buildings with yong twigs, and not with olde Tymber, who adorneth himſelfe with buds & not with full growne Flowers. What perfection is in imperfectneſſe? or what pleaſure in diſtaſte? It is onely time which makes men wiſe, and yéeres which bringeth forth wiſdomes childe, trueſt experience: Knowledge is the end of our creation, for in it onely the higheſt is glorified, and who can rightly know which hath not time for his Tutor? These things drawne into your conſideration (my déerest) why ſhould I feare (for that which is my beſt vertue) to ſolicite you with aloue conſtant and ſpotleſſe (two linories which yet could neuer fit youths back) ſeeing your wealthieſt hopes are confined in ſuch goodnes: neither haue the reſolutiõs of my loue proceeded from mine eyes, but iudgement, a ſetled counſaile of wiſedome, & reaſon confirming my deſire, and imboldened my ſpirit to manifeſt the chaſte and honeſt loue which inflameth me with a noble ardency. Then be pleaſed to know, that diſcretion hath taught mee to loue you intirely, & that loue compels me to beg from your boſom a loue ſutable to its goodnes; giuing you this aſſurance from a mind vnwauering, that as farre as honeſt induſtry, faith and religious care haue power, ſo far I will euery way contend to make me worthy your enioiment: but if all ſhall be (through imaginary feares) neglected, know, you ſhall but preuent nature a little, and bring him to an earely graue, who eſteemeth your good, and aduancement, equal with the glory of his own ſoule; my heart hath taught mine eyes to delight but in one obiect, and mine experience binds them both to a ſetled con-

ſtancy

ſtancy in their election, ſo that not being able to moue, they reſt obedient to heare the doome of your will, which howſoeuer it be ſwayed, ſhall neuer alter me from being your eternall admyrer. A. G.

XLV.

An anſwere to the former Epiſtle.

SYR:

TO defend ones ſelfe by anothers iniury, appeares to me much vncharitable, eſpecially where a needleſſe imputation is needleſſy rayſed: for though the guiltineſſe of age may bee ſtirred with feare, yet I can aſſure you youth is no actuall oppoſer againſt you, neyther is my mind ſo much acquainted with either, that your ſtudies vpon any of their perfections, onely you muſt giue mee leaue for mine owne yeares ſake, ſo farre to defend youth, that albeit bloud and violence bind it to ſome diſtemperatures, yet is it not ſubiect to ſuch mortall ſickneſſes as your Pen will infect it with: for ſhould ſuch cold Palſeys ſo early benumbe it, t'were doubtleſſe it could not continue to come to the name of aged: it is bloud conſuming not increaſing, which breeds weakeneſſe, and coldneſſe, not heat, which is the mother of mortall infection: in contraries, there is neuer friendſhip, and where there is diſſimilitude of parts, there the figure hath an vnſeemly proportion. But why doe I trouble my Pen with this argument? let it ſuffice you Sir, I haue conſidered your loue, and beleeue it to be as worthy as you would make it, onely when I would fire mine vnto it; my bloud ſtirs ſuch a commotion in my boſome, that no reconcilemẽt can bring them by many leagues together: your wiſdome, mine indiſcretion: your temperance, my rathneſſe: your coldneſſe, and my flame, appearing in ſuch contrary colours, that euen reaſon and religion agrées to make an euerlaſting diuorce betweene them. Therefore, I beſeech

you,

you, be pleased to let wisedome ouer-rule your passion; and where there cannot be delight, doe not compell consent, least what you purchase with constraint, perish with discomfort, and your selfe too late grieue to see how farre remidy is exiled from you: more I cannot say, except more time had giuen me more testimony, that the euils I feare, are much lesse dangerous, which when it shall, I will then compel my nature to agree with my fortune, and repay faith with duty, and true loue with al true obseruation, being assured that none can loue truer, then the truly louing. D.O.

XLVI.

An Epistle of accomplements, which may generally passe betweene two friends.

YOur loue (my best respected friend) is so active in my bosome, that euery occasion of salutation stirres in my braine matter enough for my Pen to worke vpon, insomuch, that though the barrainesse of the time, and the dulnesse of the place in which I line, deny to loade my Paper with any nouel seriousnesse, yet my respect to you, and wishes euer to be preserued in your best memorie, (of which I am ambitious to giue the longest instance) shal amplifie my thoughts, and send them vnto you, suted in so true an affection that you shall take delight to reade the volume of my friendship, which I know your owne noble nature will instruct you both to imbrace & cherish, as wel for the zeale of the ground from whence it springs, as loue to that fruit which shall fill your bosome with contentment. Our separation is a continuall sickenesse, and without this Paper-speech would be most inurably mortall, meditation being so great an enemy to the breath that it would quickly bring life to his last consumption: therefore, I beseech you, both for my comfort, & your own preseruation, square the rule of your Physicke by mine

imitation

imitation, and send me your words in writing, to which I will giue so much louer entertainment, that were they able to returne their owne messages, you should without suspect know that nothing is more glorious then a true friends accomplements. Make my mind happy to behold what mine eies cannot, I meane your selfe in your Letters, for they are the liueliest Characters of that Figure which we adore with most earnestnesse, and though the words be blacke, yet is their sound so cleere & mysticall, that they staine the brightnesse which contains them, & make the care couet no noyse but their repetition. Protestation is the mother of iealousie, and too much to fortifie knowledge is to breede suspicion in knowing: therefore briefly, loue me still, for I will loue you euer, and when any malice of an enuious spirit shall insinuate betwixt vs, remember my vertue and my bowe, which is euer to line faithfull. I. B.

XLVII.

A plaine friends Letter without accomplement.

FRiend (for so much thy vertue hath made me) since custome hath made a conscience of writing, and that something must proceed from nothing, or else giue suspicion leaue to play the Knaue, as honest Cicero said to his friend, so say I to thee, if thou beest well, all is wel, and my health is better by such knowledge, if otherwise, take comfort and counsell, for no griefe like thine is able to enter my bosome. If I had more to say I would more weary thee, but matter hath euer been with me more fluent then words, therefore liue as happy as I wish, and thou shalt dye as blessed as a Saint, for no mans prayers are more deuout for thee then mine, whose loue thou holdest in a perpetuall fee-simple. G. W.

XLVIII.

An Epiſtle from a Gentleman of good ranke, to his Kinſeman in Court, for procuring him the order of Knight-hood.

SYR:

THE neereneſſe in bloud betwixt vs in true deſcent, I néed not diſcouer, ſince I doe aſſure my ſelfe of your knowledge therein. But the friendſhip betwixt vs of long time ſince, I may well commemorate, for the one being onely a corruption is daily in ſight, but the other proceeding from vertue is ſoone forgotten. Speaking of vs, I meane our Anceſtors, who in all true friendſhip conioyned, whereby there were at one time liuing fiue Knights of your name, and in like manner at that inſtant, at one time, there were alſo fiue Knights of my Houſe and Name. But to boaſt of the glory of mine Anceſtors, who being honourable, dyed honorably; ſerued the Kings of this Realme both in the warres, in the Court, and in the Country, might ſéeme to proceéde of childery. But to lament mine owne eſtate: liuing vnder the times of generall aduancement, and yet onely bereaued of that degrée wherein mine Anceſtors haue béene poſſeſſed this foure hundred yeers in deſcent; may ſeeme to proceede of iuſt ſorrow: which to make greater, I daily ſee thoſe vnder my rancke, whom neither vertue nor riches are acquainted with, preceéde me in honorable titles, finding that friendſhip from ſtrangers, which the vnion of bloud miſerably neglecteth. But I will no more vſe this enuie of others, onely awaken you to doe by me, as if our fortunes were altered. I would aſſuredly doe for you, and if my name get any adition of honour by your words, beléeue it, neither ſhall my nature be vnthankefull, nor my loue ſloathfull to imploy it ſelfe in all the offices of your ſeruice, to whom I will euer liue a faithfull Kinſeman, and a perfit friend.

T.L.

An

An Epiſtle complementory, to a man of eminence going into the warres, in which he preferreth a Souldier vnto him.

SYR:

I Was determined (hearing of your returne do your lodging) to haue come to ſalute you, and amongſt others your friends, to giue you a hearty well-willing farewell, wiſhing you ſucceſſe according to your good worth & long merit: I heartily pray for you all, and that is all I can doe, but lament my fortune to be tyed to ſo baſe a trauell betwixt Court and Court, incountring with Parchment, Inke and Paper, in the time of ſo noble enterpriſes. I am ſudenly called away about great and commanding buſineſſe, wherein I pray you, excuſe me, who will euer pray for you, and loue you. Syr, this bearer, whoſe vtmoſt ambition is to doe you ſeruice in this voyage, I beſeech you, let mee intreat you to accept and grace him with your fauour, as he ſhall deſerue it by his cariage: his perſonage you ſee; I can further, by good knowledge of him, teſtifie to you that he is a right honeſt man, of good courage, of good reckoning, and hath friends of like quality, and good worth: I doubt not, but he will verifie that I haue ſayd, by his behauiour, and then I ſhall not neede to deſire you to loue him: for your owne diſpoſition out of your iudgement makes choyſe of ſuch for your loue; therfore, I commend him to your honourable fauour, and my ſelfe heartily to your ſelfe, vowing euer to liue your faithfull at all times. E. D.

L.

A Letter from one in priſon to his friend for reliefe.

SYR:

AMongſt all the helpefull offices of vertuous and generous men, none is more excellent then that ayde

which they affoꝛd the diſtreſſed in time of their captiuitie and affliction, and being perſwaded there is as much wil as power in you to doe good (my loue hauing neuer beene a ſtranger to your familiarity) I am incouraged to pꝛay your fauoꝛable & friendly furtheraͤce by ſuch good courſe and meanes as you will be pleaſed to vouchſafe me, concerning my releaſe, the nature and quantity whereof, I wiſh, may onely be pꝛopoꝛtioned by your vertue & bounty, whoſe loue will take vp into your conſideration my pꝛeſent diſpayꝛe of al comfoꝛt, being a man full of the diſaſters of impꝛiſonment, as pouerty, hunger, ill and moſt infectious ayꝛe, bad lodging; and to be bꝛiefe, idleneſſe and ſloth, my hands and induſtry ſhut vp from all kinde of courſes that may giue releiſe, I am only comfoꝛted with hope of your loue, which will with a charitable eye behold my wants, wherein you ſhall not onely bind me to you as a refreſher of my deiected body and mind, but as the meanes of mine inlargement and liberty, which a ſmall ſumme of money will effect, foꝛ which great benefit, beſides my thankful acknowledgement of your ſo ſpeciall fauour and friendſhip, I wil ſtriue by my beſt indeauours to become ſome way actually deſeruing. So wiſhing you all happineſſe and contentment, I take leaue; and reſt to be commanded at your occaſion.

I.B.

LI.

A merry Letter from an Officer of the twelue dayes, to a Lord of Chriſtmas.

PLeaſeth your high Excellency to vnderſtand: I haue receiued certaine intelligence touching the whole occurrents of all your foꝛraine buſineſſes, as well by Land as by ſea, wherin albeit Deſtiny in theſe latter deſignes hath

hath been lesse auspicious then in the precedent times of your former gouernment, yet to a Prince of your great spirit and wisedome, I know the crosses of Fortune are but onely alarmes to awaken and fortesie your hopes, against the worst of chaunces: wherefore to proceede to those negotiations with which I haue been acquainted: your great army by Land, sent into the high Empyre of Terra Lætitiæ, vnder the conduct of Don Regula Modesta, arriued most happily, fortified most strongly, & conquered both Townes, Castles, and the hearts of the best disposed people, vntil the three Kings of the North parts Hunger, Cold, and Want, vniting their forces together, with the ayd and seconds of the states of the base Countries, being led by Misery, Vsury, and Formality, bad your Highnesse generall battaile vpon Christmasse-eue, where the fight was exceeding terrible, but the vantguard of the enemy, being led by Fashion and Fasting, two meaner enemies, whereby your Excellencies first squadrons, vnder the conduct of Don Abundantio, put to rout, and in their flight made the battaile retire, which giuing the reare a dismay, your Souldiers fell Pell-mell into the execution, in which battaile the three Kings were taken prisoners, the whole Gallantry put to flight, and the most of the infantry slaine and vtterly disabled for seruice: your army onely remaining Masters of the field, gaue testimonie of their conquest, both by their shouts, banquets, and bonefiers of twelue dayes lasting. But see the inconstancy of the best chances; the two Kings, Custome and Regularitie, being the puissant Emperours of the large continent of Frugalitie, fearing your Highnesse might, by this encouragement, entitle your greatnesse to their Dominions, haue ioyned their forces together, and besieged your famous generall, within the great Citty of Laughter, where partly through the corruption of the aire of that Citie, and partly with the drinke of that soyle, which is brew'd with the weed Aliquid nimis, his souldi-

ers fall continually to diſability of ſeruice, ſo that except your Excellency immediately imbarke your ſelfe with new forces to giue him inſtant reliefe, there is hope but of the vtter deſolution both of your great Army and Empyre.

Your army by ſea hath fought many tall fights, attained infinite prizes, and made themſelues maſters of the whole merry-Ocean. But the Admirall hearing of this dangerous beſiegement, hoping to giue ſuccours by ſea, diſimbadge, and hoiſting ſayle came in twelue nights before the walles of the beſieged: but the Nauy of the enemie hauing by a ſpecial aduiſo inſtant intelligence, thruſt in betwixt them and the harbour, where began a dreadfull and ſore fight, full both of doubt and admiration: for Dona Vrſelina, your Highneſſe good Ship, hauing put vp her ſights, and being made yare for the nimbleſt buſines, turned her broad ſide vpon the enemies Vice-admirall, and hauing the aduantage of the winde, ſhewing the whiteneſſe of her vnderlops, gaue him a volley of chain-ſhot, and throwing her fireworks vpon his maine yarde, made him not onely glad to cut his Sayles, but alſo to ſpend both his Maſtes and his Boreſpryt. Dona Catherina, your moſt indouring Pynnace, held the reare Admiral a ſight full as terrible: but Dona Cognata, a ſhip for your own ſayling, ſhe twice bored the Admirall, but for want of good tackling, and the ſlip of a broken anchor, ſhe was blowne off, and loſt the hope of a braue conqueſt: but in concluſion, the Armadaes of the enemy were ſo infinite in number, that your Excellencies fleete were faine to retrapt vnder the guard of the Cannon of the Cittie, where they alſo abide moſt ſeuerely beſieged, ſo that there is nether hope of their deliuerance, nor ſafety in your own gouernment, vnleſſe perſonally with the ayd of your honorable Founders (beeing of great name and greater vertues) you repayre to the reliefe of your nobleſt (diſtreſſed) ſubiects, and to the preſeruation of your

Crowne

Crowne and Dignitie : the consideration whereof, leauing to your owne thoughts, I humbly kisse your hands.

Don Bablioso de Wast-time.

Superscribed

To the most high and most mighty Monarch of Myrth, Masking and mis-rule. D. D.

LII.

An Epistle of aduise to a friend.

SYR:

YOu write vnto me you are determined to leaue off the studie of the Lawes, and onely betake your selfe vnto the warres, and commaund my friendship to deliuer you mine aduice in the course you pretend, which motion seemes to me to carry the face of a little cruelty, for hauing fired downe a resolution how your life shall be continually versed, it will hardly come within the power of counsaile, to alter that of which our soules are inamored, and then my reasons and your thoughts meeting in opposition, may stirre fancy in you to be iealous both of my loue and discretion. But since I had rather vndergoe that feare of mistaking, then by silence or neglect, see you runne into an errour vnauoidable, I will boldly giue you mine opinion, and afterward referre your owne will to your owne iudgement: first, for your abandoning the study of the Lawes, in my conceit you forsake a friend of your blood to enioy the familiaritie of a stranger, or in a worse sense, cut off a true feeling member, to haue the imployment of a wooden one: for if we deriue the actions of our liues to the end of our aduancements, what then this study can be more swift, more certaine? the corruptions of time? the ambitions of men hauing made it in al Common wealths the mayne nerue and sinue of iustice? What greater peace can you haue then meditation? what

sweeter

ſweeter warre then diſputation, whoſe worſt wound is the gaining of knowledge? What better accommodation then your Bookes, where the whole wiſdome of the earth is daily talking vnto you? and what ſcale ſo eaſie and certaine to riſe by, as that which is ſupported by iuſtice, vertue, and the god of all Kingdomes? A profeſſion as eternall as the world, and as neceſſary as our recreations: an honour not bounded in any ſtrait circumference, but ſo largely left to the vtmoſt liſts of eminence, that it walkes one ranke before the greateſt nobilitie, hauing no acquaintance with danger, nor other beholdingneſſe then its owne vertue. But you will ſay, the ſtudy is heauy and vnpleaſant: why ſo is all things that draw vs to goodneſſe: Who can well reliſh the potion though it bring health? or who will not murmure to loſe a limbe, though it giue cure to the whole body? Things which are got with induſtry are firſt to continuance, when thoſe which iſſue from chance fall off & vaniſh in their enioyment. To conclude, then this ſtudy of our common Lawes, there is nothing more profitable for your eſtate, nor more certaine for your aduancement. Now for the warres, it is the nobleſt action of mankind, and I muſt néeds confeſſe the moſt ancient of all vertues, being honours firſt begotten, and with ſo equall a hand, diuiding right from iniurie, that no reſiſtance is able to rebate the edge of his execution, yet are his dangers great, and not more great in his execution then in his compoſition: For though his principall members may bee flowers of much goodneſſe; yet, for the moſt part, his body or groſſer ſubſtance is ſtuft with infinite corruptions, fancy hauing ſo diſguiſed valour in ydle garments of ſuppoſed gallantrie, that if obſeruation were indigent of vices, he might ſtore himſelfe double and trebble in an army: anger and boaſt being the parents of oathes, cuſtom and faſhion of drunkennes, and irreligion of blaſphemy. Theſe (my beſt friend) will be your companions in an hoaſt, and with theſe of

neceſſitie

necessitie you must be familiar: how such comercement will worke vpon your soule, I may doubt, though not certainely feare, and how the auoyding will bee without danger, I may wish, but not warrant, onely my hope is that the vertue you haue euer possessed will so gouerne you, that like the kingly Prophet Dauid, who liued with an idolater, yet was cleare from his sin, so you may accompany many vices, yet be no way your selfe blemisht with their euils, in which, Religion and Temperance must be such faithful supporters that ouerawing and keeping downe the heat of blood, all things must but shadowlike appeare vnto you which beares not the true liuorie of vertue and godnesse: Thus I haue giuen you a prospective figure of both their Characters, the choyse whereof I leaue to your good Angel, whilest my selfe will with all faithfulnesse remaine a continuall wel-wisher of your happy Fortune.

D. M.

LIII.

A merry-mad-Letter to a merry mad wench, chaste and ingenious.

Lady of beauty positiue,
Pærelesse beyond comparatiue,
Shew your swéet selfe superlatiue,
By seeming sweet inuicatiue,
Let your selfe (my déere) be actiue,
And euer an Organ passiue,
By lending me your con-iunctiue,
To haue some vnseene genetiue.

ers fall continually to disability of seruice, so that except your Excellency immediately imbarke your selfe with new forces to giue him instant reliefe, there is hope but of the vtter desolution both of your great Army and Empyre.

Your army by sea hath fought many tall fights, attained infinite prizes, and made themselues masters of the whole merry-Ocean. But the Admirall hearing of this dangerous besiegement, hoping to giue succours by sea, disimbadge, and hoisting saple came in twelue nights before the walles of the besieged: but the Nauy of the enemie hauing by a special aduiso instant intelligence, thrust in betwixt them and the harbour, where began a dreadfull and sore fight, full both of doubt and admiration: for Dona Vrselina, your Highnesse good Ship, hauing put vp her sights, and being made yare for the nimblest busines, turned her broad side vpon the enemies Vice-admirall, and hauing the aduantage of the winde, shewing the whitenesse of her vnderlops, gaue him a volley of chain-shot, and throwing her fireworks vpon his maine yarde, made him not onely glad to cut his Sayles, but also to spend both his Masts and his Boresplyt. Dona Catherina, your most induring Pynnace, held the reare Admiral a fight full as terrible: but Dona Cognata, a ship for your own saying, she twice bored the Admirall, but for want of good tackling, and the slip of a broken anchor, she was blowne off, and lost the hope of a braue conquest: but in conclusion, the Armadaes of the enemy were so infinite in number, that your Excellencies fleete were faine to retrayt vnder the guard of the Cannon of the Cittie, where they also abide most seuerely besieged, so that there is nether hope of their deliuerance, nor safety in your own gouernment, vnlesse personally with the ayd of your honorable Founders (beeing of great name and greater vertues) you repayre to the reliefe of your noblest (distressed) subiects, and to the preseruation of your Crowne

Crowne and Dignitie : the conſideration whereof, leauing to your owne thoughts, I humbly kiſſe your hands.

Don Bablioſo de Waſt-time.

Superſcribed

To the moſt high and moſt mighty Monarch of Myrth, Masking and miſ-rule. D. D.

LII.

An Epiſtle of aduiſe to a friend.

SYR:

YOu write vnto me you are determined to leaue off the ſtudie of the Lawes, and onely betake your ſelfe vnto the warres, and commaund my friendſhip to deliuer you mine aduice in the courſe you pretend, which motion ſeemes to me to carry the face of a little cruelty, for hauing fixed downe a reſolution how your life ſhall be continually verſed, it will hardly come within the power of counſaile, to alter that of which our ſoules are inamored, and then my reaſons and your thoughts meeting in oppoſition, may ſtirre fancy in you to be iealous both of my loue and diſcretion. But ſince I had rather vndergoe that feare of miſtaking, then by ſilence or neglect, ſee you runne into an errour vnauoidable, I will boldly giue you mine opinion, and afterward referre your owne will to your owne iudgement: firſt, for your abandoning the ſtudy of the Lawes, in my conceit you forſake a friend of your blood to enioy the familiaritie of a ſtranger, or in a worſe ſenſe, cut off a true feeling member, to haue the imployment of a wooden one: for if we deriue the actions of our liues to the end of our aduancements, what then this ſtudy can be more ſwift, more certaine? the corruptions of time & the ambitions of men hauing made it in al Common wealths the mayne nerue and ſinue of iuſtice? What greater peace can you haue then meditation? what

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ſwéter warre then diſputation, whoſe worſt wound is the gaining of knowledge? What better accommodation then your Bookes, where the whole wiſdome of the earth is daily talking vnto you? and what ſcale ſo eaſie and certaine to riſe by, as that which is ſupported by iuſtice, vertue, and the god of all Kingdomes? A profeſſion as eternall as the world, and as neceſſary as our recreations: an honour not bounded in any ſtrait circumference, but ſo largely left to the vtmoſt liſts of eminence, that it walkes one ranke before the greateſt nobilitie, hauing no acquaintance with danger, nor other beholdingneſſe then its owne vertue. But you will ſay, the ſtudy is heauy and vnpleaſant: why ſo is all things that draw vs to godneſſe: Who can well reliſh the potion though it bring health? or who will not murmure to loſe a limbe, though it giue cure to the whole body? Things which are got with induſtry are firt to continuance, when thoſe which iſſue from chance fall off & vaniſh in their enioyment. To conclude, then this ſtudy of our common Lawes, there is nothing more profitable for your eſtate, nor more certaine for your aduancement. Now for the warres, it is the nobleſt action of mankind, and I muſt néds confeſſe the moſt ancient of all vertues, being honours firſt begotten, and with ſo equall a hand, diuiding right from iniurie, that no reſiſtance is able to rebate the edge of his execution, yet are his dangers great, and not more great in his execution then in his compoſition: For though his principall members may bee flowers of much godneſſe; yet, for the moſt part, his body or groſſer ſubſtance is ſtuft with infinite corruptions, fancy hauing ſo diſguiſed valour in ppde garments of ſuppoſed gallantrie, that if obſeruation were indigent of vices, he might ſhore himſelfe double and trebble in an army: anger and boaſt being the parents of oathes, cuſtom and faſhion of drunkennes, and irreligion of blaſphemy. Theſe (my beſt friend) will be your companions in an hoaſt, and with theſe of

neceſſitie

neceſſitie you muſt be familiar: how ſuch comercement will worke vpon your ſoule, I may doubt, though not certainely feare, and how the anoyding will bee without danger, I may wiſh, but not warrant, onely my hope is that the vertue you haue euer poſſeſſed will ſo gouerne you, that like the kingly Prophet Dauid, who liued with an idolater, yet was cleare from his ſin, ſo you may accompany many vices, yet be no way your ſelfe blemiſht with their euils, in which, Religion and Temperance muſt be ſuch faithful ſupporters that ouerawing and keeping downe the heat of blood, all things muſt but ſhadow-like appeare vnto you which beares not the true liuorie of vertue and goodneſſe: Thus I haue giuen you a proſpective figure of both their Characters, the choyſe wherof I leaue to your good Angel, whileſt my ſelfe will with all faithfulneſſe remaine a continuall wel-wiſher of your happy Fortune.

D. M.

LIII.

A merry-mad-Letter to a merry mad wench, chaſte and ingenious.

Lady of beauty poſitiue,
Pærelelle beyond comparatiue,
Shew your ſweet ſelfe ſuperlatiue,
By ſeeming ſweet indicatiue,
Let your ſelfe (my deere) be actiue,
And euer an Organ paſſiue,
By lending me your conjunctiue,
To haue ſome vnſeene genetiue.

Lady of feature perfective,
By a pleaſure inuative,
Be of gentle will dative
To me, your louer optative,
Which by one breathing vocative
Doe demaund the copulative,
And con-iunctiue ſans erative
To haue ſome vnſæne genetiue.

(Moſt fayre) if true will affective,
You haue to be ſuppoſitiue,
My ſelfe will be oppoſitiue,
To haue ſome vnſæne genetiue.

T. W.

LIIII.

An anſwere to the former Letter in the ſame kinde.

THE true forme defideratiue,
Of your fayre ſpeech affirmatiue,
Maketh me all meditatiue,
How to propound a negatiue,
For I feare the accuſatiue
Will be of force but tranſetiue,
Therefore Ile hold my primatiue
And neuer be deriuatiue.

For where I found frequentatiue,
I ſhould loſe my nominatiue,
And vſurpe an apellatiue
The ſubſtance of a putatiue;
Wherefore Ile be indicatiue
To remaine meditatiue,
And hold ſtill my primatiue,
Without being deriuatiue.

The con-iunctiue explatiue
Comes after the Copulatiue,
And brings forth a preparatiue,
To make one vſe diſtributiue,
For where there's a nowne collectiue
Of force comes a diminutiue,
Therefore Ile hold my primatiue,
And neuer be deriuatiue.

Of this ſolith loue turbatiue,
My ſelfe am nothing obtatiue:
Therefore Ile hold my primatiue
And neuer be deriuatiue.

E. H.

LV.

A merry-mad-Letter in Skeltons rime, ſent from one Poet to another, who had brought baptiſme on the Stage.

Superſcribed,

Aiaci meo, Flagellifero.

O Thou my Muſe
Make no excuſe,
But open thy ſluſe
To write of ſome nuſe
In a vaine profuſe,
Ayde thou my Pen
Thou wonder of men,
Waſh thou my brayne
With dewe Caſtalian
And make my wits fine
With fonte Caballine,
If true I doe write
I am to invite

Of ſundry ſtrange matters
And diuers odde clatters,
Which chanced of late
(Not touching the ſtate)
I like not ſuch prate,
But if I ſpeake true
Then this doth enſue
Belongs Syr to you:
Know then for a troth
Though to tell I am loath
Of that muſt harme both
Without ſtare or oath
Take this for a ſooth,
The Sumners of London
Are comming to Horndon
Sublimi flagello
To ſcourge a bad fellow
As cloſe as King-Ioure
With two whips and no more,
There to ſurpriſe
Your fugitiue carkiſe
Without bayle or maine prize,
There haue been odde ſpies
From whom div ariſe
You allowed to babtize
Of late on the Stage.
Know then by your Page
That this your fond age
The Synode ſo Sage
Haue thought to allwage
By no pryſon nor cage,
But vnmeet of your age
Your loynes for to gage,
By letting you blood
For that doth moſt good,
I ſweare by the rood

For him that is wood,
There muſt you be ſtript
And ſoundly whipt
With horrible laſhes
And terrible claſhes
With horrible blowes
And terrible throwes,
As true as you are Sacerdos
And as we ſuppoſe
Heautantymerumenos,
Diuers of the Cittie
Say it is great pittie
That ſo proper a man
Doe what they can
Will now and than
Let his wit run at rann-
But Quid amplius vis Syr?
No more of this Syr,
But now extra Iocum
With ſpéed change your locum
Bring worke for the Cocum
And ſome gueſts for the Focum.

Fundimus hac ſine Skeltoni, ſine numine Peli.

R. A.

A Table, containing all the ſeuerall Epiſtles in this Booke.

Of State and Serioufneſſe.

AN Epiſtle exhortary from one enemy to another for pacifying of ſeditions. I.
An Epiſtle for the calling in of any ſupreame Officer to anſwere wrongs done. II.
An Epiſtle of counſaile to a man of place, being determined to giue ouer the world. III.
A potent for the lodging of a band of Souldiers. IIII.
A potent for raiſing a company to march into preſent ſeruice. V.
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A PRESIDENT *For* EPISTLES, OR, The ſecond part of HOBSONS *Horſe-loade of Letters.*

LONDON,
Printed by *George Purſlow*, for *Richard Hawkins*, and are to be ſold at his ſhop in Chancery-lane, neere Serieants Inne. 1617.

A

PRESIDENT

for

EPISTLES,

or,

The Second Part of

HORACE

Imitated by Dryden.

To the Reader.

Entlemen, if you be ſo, you will not think lightly of neuer ſo meane a worke that is done for the publike good, amongſt which, though this forme and way of writing Letters may ſeeme both eaſieſt and leaſt neceſſarie, (euery man being able to ſet downe his thoughts in his owne language) yet both experience of this preſent age, and the ſtudied labours of the former, who haue endeauored in this kinde, witneſſe the contrary: nor can we imagine, that *Tullies* exact and perfect Epiſtles were left vnto vs for the ſtile and ſweetneſſe of the phraſe, but as a thing thought both by himſelfe very fit to be publiſhed, and by all ſince to be practiſed, for an example and patterne of deliuering our mind in writing: In expreſſing of which, as I challenge nothing to my ſelfe extraordinary; ſo I dare boldly ſay, they will giue content, if not ſatisfaction to my equall and indifferent Reader: here are no farre fetcht Phraſes to puſle and amaze the people, nor any ſo rude and barbarous to diſtaſte the nobler ſpirits, but an euen & common language ſpoken vſually, and vnderſtood of euery body, which the noble Roman (the glory of this kind) directly chargeth that we follow

the ancient cuſtomes and behauior, but the preſent words and phraſes. If by my endeauors I ſhall either profit or delight any, I haue my expected reward; if I faile of both, the honeſtie and goodneſſe of my intent, ſhall bee to mee an ample ſatisfaction.

A PRESIDENT

For

EPISTLES.

I.

A Letter from a Gentleman to his Sonne, at the Vniuersitie.

ALthough, my Sonne, I haue sent you to a place where nothing can be wanting to adorne your birth, or inrich your vnderstanding, with fayre demeanors and wise precepts; yet, thinking you will more willingly heare a Father, who speaks out of experience, and to discharge that duty I am tyed in, take these few instructions. As Pan is the noblest of all other creatures, and they ordained only for his vse and ornament, so was he borne and begotten to serue him that made him, and bee a testimony of his power and glory; by which line: square out your actions, and direct your course of life and studies, which, if you truly and sincerely follow (as the Philosopher saith of Nature) you cannot erre: Know, and thinke I haue sent you thither by your diligence and labour, (excellent thinges beeing not easily gotten) to attaine to a perfecter knowledge of this mysterie: Bookes beeing onely helpes and secondarie

meanes to raiſe our ſouls; loſt by their fall, and weakned by the priſon of their bodies, to as high a degree of knowing him as Mortalitie can admit. In which as in all well ordered things there being degrees, principles of Religion being firſt taught, the wiſe men enter you with humanitie; which teacheth a fayre carriage, and Morall ciuilitie of your whole life and manners. This doe the excellent Poets often patterne vnto you, in the ſtrions of the Heroes and Worthies: not indeed expreſſing to you that ſuch men were, but that ſuch men ſhould be: this doth that notable Fable of Hercules giue large example, of refuſing no danger to attaine things glorious & high: ſtill there imploying his wonderfull ſtrength, where Goodneſſe was the end, and Vertue the reward. And this (that glory of his age) the Roman Virgill wonderfully ſetteth before your eyes, in the Hiſtorie of Æneas, in his conſtancy to his gods, Pietie towards his Father, and goodneſſe to all: This do the Phyloſophers (though with more difficultie) earneſtly perſwade in all their Treatiſes, proouing by moſt ſtrong arguments, that happineſſe and chiefeſt content is not placed in riches, pleaſure, or any fading thing; but in the knowledge and practiſe of things good and vertuous. Be not you therfore my Sonne, as Æſops Cock, who refuſed a Pretious Stone to feede on Barley; wholy apply your ſelfe to this, and diligently let no day paſſe you without bettering and increaſing your vnderſtanding: Let this bee your glorious apparell, which will no waies ruine you, drinke heartily and continually of this, and you will the neerer approach the Heauen and Skies, luſt after this, and let it be your bed-fellow, and you ſhall haue no cauſe to ſay you haue dearely purchaſt your repentance; let this be your Game, and the winged Pegaſus your Courſer: follow it, purſue it, that you may remaine a ioy to good men, a wonder to the times, and th'onely comfort to your Father. Let me heare from you often, and well may you

enioy

enioy your strength to answere your bodily health; and for all things conuenient and necessarie, whilest you behaue your selfe like mine, trust me a louing Father, who in you doing thus, shall be happy to be so left to posteritie.

Your euer carefull Father, T. H.

II.

The answere of the young Gentleman to his Father.

SYR:

I Am first to pay my thanks to his wisedome, who lent me such a Father, then to you for the happie and vertuous education in my younger yeares bestowed vpon me, and not the least for the good example from your self, which (strong in the authority of a pattent) most confirmed me, I doe with all thankefulnesse embrace your counsell, and learne most willingly (taught by you) that the end of his tedious pilgrimage winding and turning like a subtle Riuer through so many and diuers courses of mans life, is but to search out the neerest way to heauen: and that both the instructions of the Philosophers: and sirions of the Poets, are as Sea-mens cards to bring vs right to it: I hope therefore enioying pleasures but to honest recreations, and apparel to decency, drinking to suffice Nature, not Ryot; the progresse in my studies shall be a Testimonie vnto you of my well spent time. I will omit no occasion nor messenger, that may remember my loue and duty, trusting to employ my strength that my mind may be bettered, and my bodie no way impayred, and that if it please God I stay behinde you, it shall be no shame to your dead memorie to haue left such an issue.

Your dutifull Sonne, S. H.

From

III.

From a Scholler at Eaton to his Brother a Prentiſe in London.

BRother, I hope of your health, and heartily deſire your well being, no diſtance of place ſhall take away that comfort and loue which the neereneſſe of blood hath ſeated betweene vs; and I would you had beene as nigh to mee in your deſires, as birth, that ſo we might together haue trauaild vp to the flowrie hill of Parnaſſus, and ſeene the delicate and ſweete abiding of the Muſes, happy in the ſcituation, happier in the ſiluer Ryuers which runs round it; but happieſt in being a ſeate to ſuch excellent ſiſters. I wonder much at your Citizens, that ſhould cry out, What lacke you? to euery man, offering to furniſh their wants, when if you were able to turne your eyes inward, your ſelues are moſt vnfurniſhed: what handſomneſſe can there be Brother, to ſee the body richly cloathed, and the mind his Maſter go ſtarke naked? It is not a peece of Veluet or Satten can inrich that, whoſe bracks (though you haue many ſubtilties to couer) yet you cannot hide the defects of the minde; and the moaths too, for all your eight yeares ſeruice, will make bold with your ſilkes in ſpite of your beſt skill, and ſureſt wards, when we alas carry all about vs, ſo ſure, that neither moaths, ruſt, nor time, can take away from vs, ſpending our daies with a well choſen booke, or merry companion, and when that failes vs viſiting the cleere brooks with our Angles, beguiling the ſilly fiſhes with our hidden baites, I could wiſh Brother, you angled as fayre at London, and made your wiles your ſports, not your liuing; I accuſe not you, but feare you when riper yeares haue made you maſter of your ſelfe and trade, your education which from ſo good a Father wee had,

may

may againſt the cuſtome and ſetled courſe of Citizens, alter your nature, and make you eſteeme riches as your Cattell fit for your drudgery and vſes, vnmeet for your companion, much leſſe your Saint; which that it may be ſo: I will heartily pray and moſt earneſtly endeauor, with all the inſtruction and perſwaſion, that the moſt louing Brother can lay vpon the moſt beloued. Farewell,

Your Brother T. H.

IIII.

The Anſwere.

BRother, I thanke God I am well, and thanke you many times for your hearty wiſhes, if my Maſters buſines had giuen any leiſure to my louing thoughts, I ſhould long ere this haue wrapt them in a paper and ſent them to you, but pardon him that is yours by nature and his owne choice, though by duty and law bound to another, whoſe occaſions giues me ſcarce time to thinke of your happineſſe: which truely were it ſo full of glory and ſplendor as you would make me beleeue, I enuy it not to you, to whom I wiſh more content then the world can throw vpon you; but yet I muſt ingeniouſly confeſſe I neuer thoght ſo, my condition being rather addicted to this kind of life, where a certain & ſure courſe of maintenance is to be expected, then to trauaile vp Pernaſſus to pick flowers. Surely Brother, your Schollers haue but a poore crop in it without their mind (which no body can be witneſſe to) be ſo well trapped, I am ſure their bodies are bare inough; and their clothes none of the wholeſt. It may be the ſweetneſſe of the water at Helicon haue made them loue it euer ſince; for few of them can attaine to beere: And truly I do thinke we doe really and indeede, enioy thoſe fine and flouriſhing gardens you ſpeake off, and you Schollers in conceit and diſcriptions: how euer Brother, enioy your happineſſe, which

with many wiſhes of much increaſe I louingly wiſh vnto you; and I muſt be contented with my lot, which I will fashion to as neere a degree to goodneſſe and generoſneſſe (led by your example) as the weakeneſſe of my minde will giue me leaue, and ceaſe not to loue him who doth moſt heartily loue you, and pray, you liue long, to be a comfort and ſtay to our Family.

Your truly louing Brother.
S. H.

V.

From a Maſter in the Country to his ſeruant at London.

THe diſcretion rich, which I haue euer ſeene in you is reall I hope, and not worne for a ſhew, but like the light of glow-wormes in my diſtance will appeare brighter. I haue left to your care the charge of my Family; nay, credit, which like Criſtall glaſſe or pure China worke cannot be violently toucht without breaking. Let nothing carry you abroad but buſineſſe, and that very vrgent; for it will ill become my many and importune occaſions to be anſwered at home with ſilence: I forgot one thing, and that very neceſſarie, in my abſence; I pray you diſpatch it, write to your Fellow at Middleborough, that he deale no more in thoſe commodities he laſt ſent ouer, they are not marchantable, the loſſe certaine, and the hope of the gaine cannot be much; aduiſe him to haue a care of the maine, and not venter too much in one bottome, for the minds of the people are vncertaine, and Marchants like good houſe-holders in their proviſion ſhould haue an eie to the ſtomacks of their gueſts. Let not Senior Spindoras Factor be much in with him, for his Maſters credit is doubtfull, and like a ſtanding

ding pole moues not, vnleſſe forced by others, what occurrents ſhall happen beyond my expectation, I muſt leaue it to your managing, which I hope (ſuch confidence I haue in your good nature) ſhall liberally ſatiſfie my credit and your care. If there be any newes vpon the Exchange, let your next Letters report it, and remember euer, then it moſt befits the Saylors to looke about them, when the Pylot is furtheſt off.

Your louing Maſter, P. W.

VI.

An anſwere from the Seruant to the Maſter.

SYR:

WHat I am, proue ſhall teach you, I will not promiſe too much of my ſelfe, leſt your expectation beguile you, and take away much from my diligence; the truſt you haue repoſed in me; and that authority which it hath pleaſed you, in your abſence, to reſigne vnto mee, hath drawne the enuy of the houſhold vpon me: I haue endeuoured to auoid it with gentleneſſe, familiar ſocietie, and almoſt entreaty, but without diſhoneſty I cannot, vnleſſe I will hang that duty loue and obedience, which, both the law of Nature and Nation haue tied me in to you, in the wallet behind my backe, and put before my eies feaſting abroad a daies, and wallatling al nights; conſuming my ſelfe and you in careleſſe Ryot; I muſt be hated, and hated let me, be before I wrong your truſt, or mine owne credit with ſo much boldneſſe. I haue no clothes which may carry me abroad to ſhew them, no complements to vent vpon the Exchange, no Newes which like an Adamant may draw all the Ironmongers in the Burſſe in a ring, ſwearing ſuch a mans Ships is miſcarried, which is not yet put from the Hauen. But at

home, expect your buſineſſe and take account of the diſburſement of your money, and my owne time. I haue, according to your direction written to my Fellow, and as néere as I could, intimated thoſe things expreſſed in your Letter. If any thing vnlooked for happen here, the vttermoſt paines and endeuors of a Seruant ſhall not be wanting, though the euent is aboue vs, for the cunningſt and carefulleſt Pylot may ſometimes ſplit vpon a Rock, when another ship vnregarded chanceably, puts into the Hauen.

Your obedient ſeruant, I.C.

VII.

A Letter from a Gentleman at Cambridge, to his friend at the Temple.

DOe you kéep your breath (worthy friend) for Weſtminſter-hall? thinking all words will be too little when you come there: is London growne ſo barraine, I ſo vnworthy, or your imployments ſo many, that no ſalutation paſſes from you? Haue you loſt your ſelfe in Littleton? or are you gone in queſt of one of his Queres? They ſay Women and Lawyers are neuer ſilent, and yet you are as mute as a fiſh; I gueſſe the reaſon, becauſe I ſue in forma paupris, and come with a Petition in paper, looking like the beginning of a Chancerie Bill, with Humbly beſeeching. But feare not, man, ſpeake liberally and boldly, I will bee none of your worſt Clyents, though I haue nothing to do my ſelfe, I will ſet my neighbours together by the eares, about the graſing of a Pig, or tying their Mare in my ground, & ſend them vp like a flock of Géeſe, where, whē you haue pluckt thē as naked as my nayle, let them returne for more feathers. Be not diſcomforted, man, to ſee ſo many Attourneys freckled with Michaelmas durt, like Waſpes engendred of dung, trample towards Weſtminſter, there will be worke for you

you all; euery day brings his vice with it, and euery vice his patron, and the Law will finde a hole in their coates, ſhift as often as they can: they that are ſick of a Lethargie are not otherwiſe to be awaked but with pinching, ſuch a forgetfulneſſe of your friend, I think hath ſeazed you; and I hope, this rough and loud wind will awake and bring you to your ſelfe: if you chide me, I had rather ſo, then not to heare from you, for if you doe it luſtily, I hope you are well, and if long, it will get you a ſtomack to your meate, and then I make no queſtion you will fare well: Farewell from him that loues you as himſelfe.

Vſque ad aras. R. T.

VIII.

An anſwere from the Gentleman to his friend.

THough you Philoſophers profeſſe your ſelues great Naturalliſts, and glory much in ſearching out the cauſes of euery thing, yet I aſſure you, here you are beſide the Cuſhion, for we ſhall haue words inough for a Weſtminſter caſe; and a Cambridge argument too, without feare of being broken winded, though indeed to trauaile vp a hill with one of your long Syllogiſmes in his mouth, is able to ſpend any mans breath that hath not bin well dieted for the purpoſe: I feare you haue kiſt the Poſt, you raile ſo againſt the Law; but you ſhould haue beaten the beadle, and informed againſt the Conſtable, if your Paſport had bin ſufficient: And being my Clyent in ſuch a caſe, you ſhall find me your Worſhipful and louing friend; for ſetting your neighbours together by the eares. I thinke you haue a witty derteritie, but it will not be for the Pigs taile, but for the carcaſe, and as for the ſending the Geeſe, I dare not take your word, nor here a Towne within halfe a dozen mile off: where you make maſſacres of whole flocks. As for our At-

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torneys, I would you had halfe a dozen to canuas instéed of your chéese, you should find them tough Lads, and so full of quirks and quillets, that all your distinctions would not deliuer you from them: I hope friend you haue found me waking, and I feare if I write againe, you will cast Poppey in my porridge to bring me into a long sleepe; I dare send you no sawse to raise your appetite, because your Commons are so short, and your mony I beléeue, shorter, and then to set your credit vpon the tenters (being so farre spent already) would more endanger it, then I being your louing friend would easily wish or desire, Farewell.

Not a foote behind you,
W. S.

IX.

A Letter consolatory to a friend for the death of his Sonne.

SYR:

THough you may seeme (vertuous) to haue worthy cause of much lamentation and teares, hauing lost such a Sonne, of whom al men conceiued great hope, and his owne towardnesse promised with an assurance they should not be deceiued; yet, if with iudgement and truth taking away the veile of passion which blindeth our reason, wée looke neuer into it, there will small or no cause appeare of such immoderate grieuing: a few drops are timely and well becomming a friendly Hearse; but, continuall languishment, as if you would dissolue into tears, like Niobe, shew either much weakenesse of man in you, or else bewray a feare and ielousie, of your Sonnes vndoubted and happie deliuerie from this earthly prison, into a place of euerlasting ioy and delight: Had he like the most of our young gallants out-liued his Vertues,

and

and ſeene his memory periſh before him; had his ryots burnt reproach into his houſe, and left his Creditors as Schedules or teſtimonies of his ill lewd life, continually to exclaime on you for ſatisfaction of his lewd expences: I would then haue giuen water to your teares, and haue borne a moſt large, though moſt vnhappie, part of your iuſt and truely cauſed ſorrow: But when you can turne your eyes to nothing of his, which doth not rebound ioy and comfort, when you cannot thinke of him, but you muſt withall melt in content of his gwdneſſe, and excellent qualities; where are then your languiſhment, teares, or ſorrowes? Did he euer diſobey you, or fainted in your Commandements, vnleſſe ſometimes ſtealing to his ſtudies, from which you had chid him to recreation and ſportfull exerciſe? Was he euer cauſe of a ſigh or a heauy countenance, but when hee parted from you to goe to the Vniuerſitie? For you then complained of a wrong ſo to leaue him: doe not doe that excellent young man ſo much iniury, to bewaile with that oppreſſion to all your delights, leſt the world imagine (full of eaſie credulitie) you are guilty to your ſelfe of ſome haynous crime in him. Beare it; but with that courage Cato toke away himſelfe ſorrowing, to die by his owne hands; yet, much preferring it before life giuen by Cæſar.

Take ſome alacritie and chærefulneſſe of countenance to you, and if you truely loued him, ſhew it in giuing thanks for his happy and godly releaſement, and endeauouring all the gwd you can; offer vp your prayers to bee ioyned as a companion with him, in that heauenly and neuer to be parted ſocietie.

Your well-wiſhing friend,
T.W.

The

X.

The paſſionate anſwere of the old Gentleman to his friend.

SYR:

NEuer till now (worthy friend) had I ſo much need of comfort, neuer till now did I feele my ſtaffe taken away from me, my ſight decayed, and my whole frame of Nature ſhaked and almoſt ouerthrowne. And yet all theſe ſolaces with you, all my friends, and all that knew him ſo often repeat vnto mee in the memorie of his praiſes, are the monuments of my loſſes, and reliſh like the ſweete meates at his funerall: Haue I not iuſt cauſe, miſerable old man, to languiſh and pine away, when he for whom I ſought to liue is violently snatcht from me? Wherein can I now ſee my ſelfe, my glaſſe is broken, and I want youth and ſtrength to make another Pyrrour, and if I were renewed to liue ages, neuer hope to beget ſuch another, ſuch an excellent young man whoſe beautie and vertues ſtriued for the preheminence. Doe not my ſeruants hang the head and mourne, and ſhould I be more vnnaturall then my ſeruants? Doth not the little pretty Spaniell which vſed in his ſports to accompany him, by refuſing his meate and refraining other company, teſtifie his ſorrow, and ſhould I be leſſe ſenſible then the Spaniell? His Nightingale which tooke meate from his owne hand, and reſted vpon his boſome, after ſhe had lamented her leſſe, more then her own rape, left ſinging and dyed. Yet I, vnfortunate Father, liue and may not giue ouer my few daies to inherit happineſſe, and life for euer with him, who was the only comfort and ſtay of my much feebled and decaied peece of earth: while I ſtay I will ſlow in teares, and neuer think of ioy or ſolace, till I perceiue a meſſenger from him for my approach, and then with the Swan ſing my Funeral

ſong,

ſong, with more alacrity haſt thither, then the moſt louingſt Bridegroome to the deere and much longed for ſide of his beloued partner.

The vnfortunate T. R.

XI.

A Letter from a Schoole-boy in the Countrey, to another Schoole-boy in London.

I Would friend, as our places of birth ioyne, ſo our education had beene together, that wee might haue had the company and comfort one of another. For with whom could I better or willinger haue exerciſed, either the ſports of the mind, or the bodie? And truely could your Father bee perſwaded to it, which it ſeemes hee will not, either for his profit, it beeing ſome charge; or elſe, for opinion which will not beleeue it, heere is both better inſtruction and education, witneſſe the progreſſe is made here in ſhort time of many, whom the Vniuerſity kindly and thankefully receiues from hence. There are about twentie of vs boyded at our Maſters houſe, and indeed it would doe you good to ſee with what order and neateneſſe euery thing is diſpoſed off, our Chambers kept ſo cleanly, our Towell hanged vp with a Lauer full of water, our Chamber-pot, our Beds both good and ſightly, our Meate at ſuch euen houres and in ſuch handſome manner, that the vſage draweth me in loue with my Maſter, and my Maſter with my Booke, hee proceedeth with ſuch mildneſſe and lenitie, where he findes any towardneſſe, or deſire of learning, neither exerciſing ſeueritie but to dull and rather ſtubborne youths: Our daies of Recreation limited by the Founders, and willingly yeelded vnto by the Maſter, in which times, there are numbers appointed to bridle the vnruly ones, who in

their wilineſſe might either hurt themſelues, or by their euil example draw other to the like. Then in a fayre large Greene ioyning to the houſe, compaſſed with a delicate Riuer, there are diuers paſtimes according to the mind and deſire of the doer. Some the Trap delights, ſome the neceſſary and very healthfull vſe of the Bowe, ſome the Riuer draweth with an Angle, and all are exerciſed in ſome harmeleſſe recreation, till the Bell at fiue a Clocke call vs to our ſupper, when no man vnwilling or grudgingly leaueth his paſtime; but, like a beautifull flocke preſently obeyeth his Maſters beck, after repaſt and thanks-giuing wee fall to wittie queſtions, both to ripen our memory, and whet our vnderſtanding. After that to Prayers, and ſo to Bed: Truly, I could wish for your owne ſake, your Father would make ſo bold with his purſe as ſend you hither, where hee would finde the increaſe ſo much, as it would neuer haue repented him ſo to haue beſtowed it, Farewell.

Your kind friend, M. A.

XII.

An anſwere from the Scholler, to his friend.

LOuing friend, the prettie diſcription of your Schoole and order, had preuailed ſo farre with me, and tooke ſuch hold in my conceit, that I verily imagined my ſelfe there in that pleaſant Greene among your well ordered company, but awaking out of this ſtudie (like him that dreames of gold) to my griefe I find the contrary. For though my Father omitteth nothing, which in his iudgement may traine me by the readieſt way to my Booke, by calling me by early, not induring me at home to be idle; yet indeed, neither the Maſters care, nor method, for our bringing vp, is like yours; nor is it a meanes of profiting

to

to be continually poring, as my Father would haue me; for it rather breeds a wearinesse and satietie, then makes any progresse or bettering. I will shew my Father your Letter, which I will ſe with my moſt earneſt perſwaſions what it will worke with him; which if it preuaile not, I know no way left to moue him, vnleſſe your comming vp, which I much long for, both to ſe and talk with you, may by the euident and apparant profit vrge him for me; till when, I pray you let me heare from you, as often as your leiſure and meſſengers will permit, and I will not faile to anſwere, and reſt

Yours in what I may,
R. B.

XIII.

A Letter to a Gentlewoman whom hee was a Sutor to, and ſuſpected.

WAs I not inough miſerable before, to whom ſo many hard fortunes in the purſuite of our affections happened, but that newly come to ſome taſte of happineſſe, and poſſibilitie of comfort, I am caſt down againe by the falſeſt and faireſt, to the vttermoſt and miſerableſt deſpaire. The oppoſitions of friends I conquered with ſupplications and intreaty, the want of meanes I ouercame with labour and induſtrie, but a falling and fickle woman, what ſtrength can ſupport? What wiſedome make ſtaid? How often hath thou forced mee beleeue with diſſembling teares, and cunning ſighes, twining thine armes about me, kiſſing me with that heate and ardency, as if thy heart had beſtred to touch, as thy lippes, that I onely was beloued? How often in the heat of my buſineſſe haſt thou beguil'd my time, with vnneceſſarie diſcourſes, and fained tales, on-

ly to gaine my presence? How often hast thou worne out the tedious winter nights, when the lights fainted and fell asleepe seeming to rest in me, and desire no other refreshing? How often hath thy teares waited vpon my departure, and thy longing eyes cast louing looks to the vttermost of thy sight? And was all this to fetter a yéelding heart? And then fiercest, triumph in thy cruelty? Am I now denied to be spoken withall, whom by many messengers thou hast sued to speake to? Art thou denied to be within; who deniedst euer to be abroad, so I would come to thée? Enioy; enioy thy conquest, and glory thou hast vndone one that loued thee, and by what meanes but by louing him; for that shew best fitted thy inconstancy, and soonest ouerthrew me. For my part, I will not doe thee that ease, to beg mercy of thee, but dye for thée, and dying, leaue the terrour to thy afflicted conscience.

XIIII.

The answere.

LEaue the terror to my afflicted conscience, Ile assure thée rest, did not y strength of my loue to you help with mine own innocency support me, so vnmercifulare your words, that they would giue for my life to passe away; but the care of you aboue all mine owne strength doth spirit me anew, and liuing onely in you, I will as soone as my feeble hands terrified with my passions, can get my cloathes about me, fly to you, and easily banish these mists of Iealosie, which I protest vnto you by your self the summe of my Idolatry are most false and vntrue. Let this my Letter and protestation make way in your conceit, before my own approach, that my words may

be beleeued, and vncloath your face of frownes and hard lookes, leſt you become the vntimely murderer of her, who wiſheth only to liue to be yours.

XV.

A Letter commendatory, from a Gentleman to his friend.

SYR:

THe power which I preſume to haue in you, made ſtrong by our bringing vp together, and mutuall rites of friendſhip emboldneth mee to commend this Gentleman, whom his owne vertues will liberally, vpon the leaſt acquaintance, ſpeake worthy of it. His parts fewer then his honors, and they fewer then his deſerts, altogether ioine in a perſon, whoſe affabilitie, ſweetnes of converſation, ableneſſe and comelineſſe of body, muſt needs make him precious to his friends and country: hauing ſpent his youth with much increaſe of knowledge liking of all, and education of the beſt and moſt knowing in the Vniuerſity, retiring a while into his owne Country to take his leaue of his father, euen loth to part with him, hee is now determined to trauell aſwell to inrich himſelfe, with the beſt of their manners, as languages: And beeing to come to London, his way lying from thence, I could not (for old loue betweene vs) but gratifie you with his acquaintance; wherein (if at leaſt my loue beguile me not) you will thinke your ſelfe happily beſtead, I ſhall need to ſpeake no more of him, he brings himſelfe with him which will out-ſpeake all commendations, ſometimes thinke of me, and I ſhall reſt euer ſatisfied.

Your aſſured louing friend,
C. H.

XVI.

The Anſwere.

VVOrthy Sir, I cannot expreſſe how infinitely I ſtand beholding to you, for your kinde letter and friend, in the knowledge of whome I forgine many diſaſters which haue of late vnluckily fallen vpon mee, thinking my ſelfe more then inough requited, in that my Fortune (by your meanes) hath thought me fitting his acquaintance. A Gentleman, I proteſt vnto you, in whom I may lay vp all the hopes of what may be promiſed in our age; who, as if moſt ignorant of his owne Vertues, though excellently well learned in all things elſe, is indued with ſo much modeſtie and humilitie, that would make Pride her ſelfe leaue her affected glory in his companie. He take ſhipping at Douer two dates ſince, whither I would needs accompany him, ſo loth was I to looſe any time, which in his preſence was happily ſpent and gained: A grauitie beſeeming the oldeſt, yet tempered with ſuch wel affected mirth, and pleaſant ſocietie, that euen the youngeſt were in loue with it, his owne Vertue be his guard, and returne him honourably home; for it will be a maine loſſe to our Countrey, if ſuch a member and limbe of our gouernment bee vntimely cut off.

Yours to his power,

S. P.

XVII.

A Letter from a Gentleman to his Sonne, instructing him how to behaue himselfe in the Common-wealth.

NOw you haue forsaken (my sonne) the Vniuersity, whose first Rudiments, like the Nurses milke, hath enabled you to feede on tougher knowledges, both to satisfie my selfe in leauing nothing vnsayd of my part, which may aduance and instruct you, and also to furnish you in your iourney into the world, take these few precepts. Know (my sonne) the darke world, like the wild Ocean, hath many shallowes, many rockes, many wildernesse to runne and lose your youth and credit in; vse therefore these instructions, as your Pylot, who though it cannot teach you to auoyd all the dangers, yet it shall teach you how to know them; and your owne vertue and care must helpe to free you from them. I haue before instructed you, that the generall end of mans creation, is the seruice of him that made him, which is exercised and shewed in diuers particular functions. First, your loue and duty to your Prince, whom as a god, vpon earth, you must serue, follow, and obey; next him, charity and gentlenesse towards all, knowing wee are all children of one father, howeuer some are called to more preferment then others, in which so behaue your selfe, that you enuy not your Superiors, nor disdaine those that are below you. And what place soeuer your owne industrie, or diligence of your friend shall call you to, let goodnes and vertue be your generall ayme, from which degresse not for any particular end. For these two, like the Sea-mens Card, must direct your course of life, through all the blind indirect waies, through all the thorny and violent passages of the world, whose sight if you lose, you are lost,

mis-

miscarried vndonne. The two shelfes of the world are prosperity and aduersity; if your barke light vpon either with full sales and stiffe windes, you perish vnsuccorably presumption splits th'one, dispayre th'other: so entertaine great fortunes, still fearing the falling, so lowe ones, still hoping, rising: In both acknowledge him the giuer, and wayte his pleasure, to do what it pleaseth him with you. Thus guiding your Ship (my sonne) you shall, early or late, at his best disposing arriue happily and safely in the euer peaceable Hauen; whence all troubles, all commotions, all storms are banished, and euer-liuing sun-shine and content dwelleth.

Your carefull Father, I. R.

XVIII.

Answere.

SYR:

I Owe you more for this then my birth, that being the end of marriage, this no end, but my good, of more esteeme, more comfort to me, then all the possessions you can euer leaue me; your loue may make me rich, your counsell honest; they of great accompt with men, this with God: I do now much condemne the opinion of the Phylosopher, who pronounced them happy were neuer borne, nert them which dyed soonest; happy was I borne of so good a father, and happiest if I liue long to heare and practise this diuine and heauenly counsell: where would Alexander the great, that euery night put his Poets workes vnder his beds head (because he had to the world sung a Conquerors prayses) haue laid this Counsell, which would haue raised him aboue the starres: surely in his heart: and so (worthy Sir) aught and will I endeuour to doe, it shall bee my study which I will professe, my marke which I will shoot at, the Deare

which

which I will follow; I will omit no time to ouertake it, no occaſion to make vſe of it, and all my life will bee too little to acknowledge my loue and duetie to you for beſtowing it.

In all humble duty, R.R.

XIX.

From one Gentlewoman, to another Gentlewoman.

My onely friend, not all the pleaſures of a Country houſe (though very much beholding to nature for the ſcituation, and that with much coſt Art hath been intreated, both to helpe and beautifie what ſhe friendly beſtowed) can make vp that content I parted withall when I left thee: It doth mee good, retiring my ſelfe many times into my ſelfe, to call to minde our being together, our diſcourſe and pritty harmeleſſe paſtimes; My beſt companion here is my Arcadia, and the moſt my worke, with which, I make many idle houres beleeue I thinke not of them, and ſo ſerious with my needle, as if I endeuoured to be a good Sempſtreſſe, and truely I thinke my worke is more beholding to me then to any other; for it much pleaſeth me, and I could ſometimes commend the things I haue done had I faithfull eares, like yours, to treaſure vp my folly: I like better here our thick Groues then large Plaines; for there being alone, as I alwayes being without thee, the trees ſeeme to be my companions, who better pleaſe mee with their ſilence, then our rude youth with their vaine ſpeeches. And truth I tell thee, euen thoſe of mine owne ſexe leaſt delight me, ſuch is their boldneſſe, and manly carriage; if it bee faſhion and comelineſſe, I ſhall better content my ſelf with

mine owne homelineſſe, and rather with want of maners then want of modeſty: I ſtay vnwillingly from thée, but muſt pay the obedience I owe to a father, with forcing my mind to content my ſelfe in it ſelfe, and flatter it with promiſe of enioying thee, which till I do, I am but halfe my ſelfe, and reſt wholly in thée.

Euer thine, S. T.

XX.

An Anſwere.

My worthy choyce, how miſerable may I then account my ſelfe, who haue here nothing but houſes to looke on, which can neither delight nor take away any thing from my diſcontentment. To you, the flowne fields, pleaſant meadowes, fluer rivers, ſpacious plains, thicke groues, high mountaines and humble vallies may well entertaine and ſteale away much tedioufneſſe from the ſlow-foted houres. My owne thoughts which were wont to accompany mee, growe now aweary of themſelues, finding no comfort but in forgetting ſléepes, as if ſince you were gone, all other obiects proue matter rather of griefe then content. I haue béen pittifully troubled, ſince your departure, with a raging in my téeth, and am beholding to thy memory for much eaſe, my minde dulled with thy loſſe, being not ſo ſenſible of the extremity of paine: I pray thee write often and long to me; for wherein can I better beſtow my ſelfe, then in reading thy ſtorie, written by thine owne hand. Though I am almoſt fallen out with all mankinde (the ruine and ſhame of our Sexe) yet I could with my Sexe changed for thy ſake, from whoſe ſweetneſſe and vertue the world may expect large hopes, pitty they ſhould either be buried in thy maiden Sepulchre, or loſt in the wildneſſe of mens frenzies.

For

For my part no husband shall take me from thee, but while I liue, I will bee th'admirer of thy chastity and doting louer of all thy perfections.

XXI.

From a schoole-boy in the country to his Father.

SYR:

WHerein can I better answeare the cost it pleaseth you to bestowe vpon me, then in shewing you the fruits of my study, and in what more can they bee expressed then in acknowledging my loue and duety which neglected knowledge is rather a ruine then an ornament, like the fiercenesse and strength of an vnbridled Courser, becoming the ouerthrow of himselfe and Rider. My maister takes very kindly your Letter and Token, and doth much recompence it, in the care and desire of my increase in learning: The bookes I write for, I thank you I haue louingly receiued, and will endeauour by my diligence and labour to make it appeare your money was not cast away. This young Messenger is my schoole-fellowe, to whose friends, men of very good quallity in the towne, and for his sake, I am very much beholding, and am many times (I thanke them) with much welcome and good countenance with them. Good Syr let him know by his kind entertainement, I haue not forgotten it, himselfe truely being full of good parts, and much commended and loued by my Maister, for his towardnes at his booke; wherein what helpe he may be to me he is neuer wanting if: it might stand with your good liking this Christmas (our studdies being laid aside) I should desire to spend my time at home, to comfort my selfe with the sight of your selfe and my louing mother, from whom next God I haue receiued both my being (a blessednesse aboue other creatures and my being well (a happinesse they can neuer

attaine to) But I referre all to your better consideration, who aboue knowes what is most fitting; and so earnestly desiring your blessing and prayers I rest:

In all obedience, T.W.

XXII.

An answere.

SOnne I haue receiued your letter, and friend, with all the welcome and kindnesse my house affoorded, where he lodged all the time of his stay, and when he could bee spared from other friends dieted: whilest you ply your booke and behaue your selfe no otherwise then is reported to me, you shall want nothing I can doe for you, I can leaue you nor bestow nothing more worthy of you then your learning, and good manners. The Riches, if I should leaue you any, which are but lent me and to be taken away at his pleasure who gaue them, are subiect to many frailties and mischances, certaine in nothing but their uncertainetie: your booke must be your meanes of Life, and ornament of Life, which no time nor casuallity can take from you. Could my Father, by himselfe or friends, haue purchaste such a portion for me, truely I should haue esteemed it aboue all my estate; you see what honours in the Common wealth it bringeth them to, how loued, how respected of all men, follow that my sonne and it will neuer leaue you, basely or disgracefully, nor shall you neede be ashamed how poore soeuer, being so furnished, nor will other men be ashamed of you. For your comming vp at Christmas, if I can conuenientely prouide a horse for you, I will not be against it, hoping you will at the time expected willingly leaue me, to goe to a better and carefuller Father; for Learning doth anew and better beget you: Commend to your Maister and thanke him for his care, and so with my blessing I rest.

Your Father, R.W.

From

XXIII.

From an Attorney to his Client.

SYR:

THe truth is your case goes awry, but by the helpe of a cunning Lawyer it may be sent right againe: It hath cost me much labour in searching the records, where still like one vnfortunately ielous, I finde it worse & worse; your Father at an easie rate bought a title, but it will not be so kept, there is a hole found in it, and the Owners pepe through; all the helpe the Law affordeth (having possession) is, with the reuenewe of the Manner to hold him in play till their hearts ake, and after some halfe dozen of yeares, when they are wearied and walked with expence, and labour, they will curse them who first acquainted them with their title and be forced to ransome it (as your prisoner) at a good valuable rate, I haue knowne many Clyents drawne in by politicke Attourneys with hope of gain in other mens estates: as your Alchimists fish for goldfinches w̄ a little tincture, made by a knives poynt, in sute of which they haue spent themselues to the shirt, and bin faine to petition in forma pauperis for the relieue of an Almshouse; Syr, I could aduise you as my friend to preferre an vniust peace before a iust warre, in which the victorie is hazardous and the daunger euer certaine, I shall expect you this Tearme, till when I commit it to your riper consideration.

In all cases next to hand, R. S.

XXIIII.

An Answere.

KInde friend, at the time we purchased, it was my fortune to be abroad, searching for Customes and

Pannours in other Countries; What my father payd for it I am vncertaine, but certainly determined with my vttermoſt ability to defend it, and make it mine: If there were no defects in Nature, to what vſe were Surgeons? no ſurfets and diſtemperatures in the body, what would honour the Phyſicion? a bad cauſe crownes a Lawyer in the recouery excellent, and they are excellent at recoueries, being well crowned: I hope, amongſt ſo many famous men who haue talkt themſelues into faire houſes, and large reuenewes, my cauſe ſhall not be forſaken; and though neuer ſo maimed, golden crutches will carry it to Princes chambers: The Lawe is like the ſouereigne ſpeare of Achilles, which healed whomſoeuer it hurt, and had your Clients applyed themſelues to it, they had not ſo deſperately fallen: I thank you for your friendly aduice, but as I moſt vnwillingly enter into warre ſo violently prouoked, I make way through, though I leaue my life in ſatisfaction. At next Terme, according to your expectation, I will be with you, reſolutely determined to keepe the Pannour, or leaue with it all was left me.

In no caſe your enemy, R. N.

XXV.

A letter to his friend, ioying with him for his good choyce in a Wife.

FRiend, I ſhall tell you ſtrange newes, I am married; nay ſtranger then that, I am well married: Beleeue it, my ioy is ſo ample, and both ſo wholly poſſeſſe and fill me, that me thinkes, I neuer felt content till now. It is ſo rarely happy a thing to meet with a good woman, that did I not hourely enioy her, and bleſſe my ſelfe with her company, I ſhould ſtill feare ſome vaine dreame or idle phantaſie poſſeſt mee. But I haue her, enioy her, eate with

with her, lye with her, and ſometimes ſleepe with her; my eyes ſtill vnwilling to yeeld themſelues any reſpite from gazing. Neither is my mind with an vnwearied eagernesse leſſe buſied, leſſe ſatiſfied: For, ſhe is not all ſayle, beautiful flagges and tackling, but fraughted with rich Merchandize, to which, th'other ſerue but as neceſſary inſtruments. Her apparell, rather to couer her body, then ſet out her body, which is adorned with nothing but plainenesse, and her mind ſuitable to that, free from artificiall guile or gloſing. I neuer heard a woman diſcourſe ſo well and ſo little, often ſparing her ſelfe from needfull ſpeeches, leſt ſhe ſhould get a habite of Gooſiping. The houſe is her Circle from which ſhe ſeldome ſtirres, but to her deuotions, and neuer without me, in whom alone ſhe ſeemes to liue. Pardon (friend) my folly that thus commend my owne: but I muſt either breake or let it out, ſo both my loues ouerflow all that I am; and in whoſe breſt could I faithfuller repoſe it, then where much good will and ſincere affection, hath both aſſured me of ſecrecy and great ioy, at ſuch an vnexpected bleſſing? I ſhall much long for your company to be an eye-witneſſe, both of my happineſſe and iudgement, and heartily with you ſuch a partner and fellow to draw with you in the continuall cloddes and cumbers of this world.

XXVI.

The Anſwere.

I Infinitely reioyce at your happineſſe, but with none my ſelfe: that ſome Ships haue eſcaped violent ſtorms, ſhall not make me in loue with fowle weather; I enioy, I thanke God, my health, a competent eſtate of life, ſeruants for drudgerie, a horſe, and good winged Hawk for my recreation, and all theſe quietly at my owne diſpoſing. I deſire not a woman to looke Babies in her eyes,

if she be good and my play-fellow: or if peruerse and wickedly disposed, to haue mine owne turne out. They either lye at a mans heart like lead, or els swimme in his braine, like an ouer-draught, neuer well tempered, or well countenanced, but either willingly light, disdainfully proud, or sullenly frowning. My friends must bee strangers, and hers my continuall ghests, els such a peale of Ordnance goes off, that the house shakes, I must not sleepe till she be disposed, and I must be disposed mirthfully before shee sleepe. When I rise in the morning, I must turne to her, and giue her the time of the day, els, before night my head may hap ake for it. I must not dine till she haue a stomake, and perhaps goe to bed, if she be sleepy, without a supper. I must indeed stand but for one thing, and that to be disposed of, and made a foole at her pleasure. In all things else, shee is chiefe Regent and Commandresse, or my credit and substance lies at the stake for it. I shall be easily induced to come and see you, and the sooner to view that peece of wonder you tell me of, not heretofore knowne of man, nor found out by the inquisition of the cunningest women hunters.

XXVII.

A Letter from a Souldier in the Campe.

I Should begin with a volly of oathes to discharge my profession, and fil vp my letter with bloud and wounds, to make you know it comes from the Campe, then send you a Catalogue of our Launderesses in English, whores, and so I conclude my letter with a pox & a paire of false bones. This you thinke is our life, this our language? But trust me friend, it is not the discipline of warre, nor a Souldiers life that breedeth those ill fashions, disorderd conditions, lewd and cruell manners.

Amongst the Romans (whose flourishing estate was

both

both raiſed and gouerned by Souldiery) where were ciuiller or more temperate leaders, or more wealthy or well gouerned people? Muſt the Iudges needes be cruell minded, that put off Offendors? why then ſhould we, being appointed miniſters of iuſtice, in taking away forrain enemies, that would ruine, not any particular eſtate, but our land? Why ſhould we get habite of cruelty, rapine and licentiouſneſſe? Beléeue it, I haue not knowne more temperate men, well minded, excellently behaued, and religiouſly giuen, then many, and thoſe braue Souldiers; neither is it the profeſſion that makes ỹ men wicked, but the men that makes the profeſſion wicked; who queſtionleſſe, applying their minds to any other courſe of life, would haue been as riotous and diſſolute. I thinke you heare of the forces are comming from the Spaniard, to ayde and ſtrengthen the enemy, both men and victuall, the ſinewes of the warre we expect them euery day, and by the counſell of warre it is concluded to giue them battell before they be reſted or refreſhed, whileſt the men are weary, and the horſes dulled with their trauell. If I outliue the day, you ſhall ſhortly heare of me, if not, pray for me and loue my memory.

Thy true friend, T. S.

XXVIII.

Anſwere.

DEere Sir, I euer thought thoſe ill members of warre, to be as Tyrants in a faire gouernment, who make their authority a priuiledge to doe cruelty; or as a ſword in hand of a diſtracted man, which hee turnes vpon his owne friend: As well may Surgeons, that draw away our bloud to cure our diſeaſes, and cruelly launce vs to helpe vs of impoſthumd ſwellings, be call'd in queſtion for hardneſſe of heart, and may as well be licentious, if their

liberty of minde and body giue way to Ryot. It is an honourable title gloriously atchieued, and in spight of enuy and all tongues, leaues it selfe to after ages great and famous. Their excesse of drinke, lewdnesse in women, liberty at gaming speake them ill men, but no way Souldiers, to the making vp of whom are required honesty and valour, both to be willing and able to stand for God and their Country, in whose defence who loseth their liues are happy Martyrs. They are the wals of our Cities, the Bulwarkes of our strong Towers, the armed Lawyers of our Land; who stay not the enemy at home to hazard our ruine; but meet him a farre off to stop there his violence and fury. The prayers of all good men fight on your sides, and make your weapons fall like thunder on your enemies helmets, and the fortune of the Common-wealth be as the fained shield of Perseus, to turne your enemies into stone, not able to resist in so vniust a cause: liuing or dying, I will honour your memory, and keepe it as the iewell of my after story.

Yours, then his owne, more. R. H.

XXIX.

A Letter from a Chap-man in the Countrey, to a Tradesman at London.

LOuing friend, you haue done me much wrong in detaining the wares I writ for; I haue disappointed some Gentlemen relying vpon you, whose custome hath much aduanced me: My credit, I hope, will euer bee aboue that valew, and my dealing for much more yeerely betweene vs, might (without other circumstances therein haue satisfied you. I must plainely tell you, in the Countrey there are many good men, whose estates are knowne very sufficient, which cannot raise money vpon

their

their credit in an inſtant, we want a common bank with vs which may furnish vs ſuddenly & thoroughly: Brokers trade not here, nor Vſurers take their places but in ſummer for their recreation. Thinke friend, mee an honeſt man, and ſo you haue much cauſe to thinke, confident in which, though my eſtate were brittle as (I thank God) I know it ſure, you may be armed I will neuer faile nor deceiue you. I roaue not beyond my compaſſe, neither make a ſure foundation out of other mens ruines, but contented with a little, leauing a bleſſing to my children, and a good memory amongſt my Neighbours. Let me heare from you concerning the cauſe of this breach, and a note of the reckoning betweene vs, when I will make euen and reſt rather honeſt then rich.

Your friend, T. S.

XXX.

An Anſwere.

TRuly it much grieues me you were ſo diſappointed, and the negligence of my man went not alway vnpuniſhed, by whoſe default the Carrier went without them. Beleeue me on my word, and I accompt my ſelfe happier in being Maſter of that then much riches, no feare of paiment nor the leaſt doubt of your eſtate was any hinderance to it. I haue well knowne you by others, and haue had ſo much experience in you my ſelfe, that you ſhall ſooner want occaſions for wares, then I confidence to truſt you: your neighbours ſpeake much good of you, and all men giue you a faire report, which makes me happy both in your cuſtome and friendſhip. If ſiniſter occaſions ſhall by any time happen (as while wee are here they are incident vnto vs) I ſhal rather pittie your fortunes, then call your faire dealing into queſtion: and know, wee are all men accountable euery inſtant for all our poſſeſſions.

The Carrier this weeke brings thoſe Commodities, better and more vendable you neuer had of me, and I verily beleeue, the Gentlemen will thinke themſelues well repayed for their ſtay, with the exceeding gwdneſſe and laſtingneſſe of the ware. For our reckonings, at more leiſure I will peruſe and ſend them, in whoſe place receiue my kindeſt Commendations and entreaty for my mans careleſneſſe. Your friend to his power, L. W.

XXXI.

A Letter from a Gentlewoman, to a Gentleman whom ſhe loued.

IF euer I could wiſh my ſelfe vnborne, or my being taken from me, I call truth and my ſometimes modeſtie to witneſſe, it is now: not that I haue found you, but that I am forced thus to ſeeke you. Call to your mind (faire and I hope vertuous Sir) ſome horrid & violent women taken with the loue of their owne fathers, as was Mirha; or inceſtuouſly purſuing their neareſt brother as was Byblis, ſo my affection will appeare more modeſt, and my ſuite more pardonable: I loue you, who in the ſtricteſt lawes of deſire are moſt worthy to be loued, whoſe vertues might inflame a Nunne, and excellent qualities take the moſt retired: if I haue (as I too well know I haue) contrary to the nature and cuſtome of Virgins, ouerſhot my ſelfe in my violent paſſions; pardon her that had rather dye then make it knowne, yet chooſe rather to make it knowne, then not enioy you ſo deſired, and worthy to be more deſired, if you were acquainted what afflictions I ſuffer in my diſcouery; yet fearing all will not ſerue, you would, I hope, rather incline to pitty, then diſdaine; little will it auaile the triumph of your beauty, the death of a ſilly Mayden, and the ouerthrow of your credit leſſe beſit your vertue: Raiſe me from th'one by your loue, and

aſſure me of th'other by your ſecrecy; whileſt, I will euer remaine a moſt conſtant Votareſſe to your al perfections, bleſſing the Parent that left behind them ſuch an iſſue.

Neuer leſſe her owne, A. F.

XXXII.

Anſwere.

HOw happy may I accompt my ſelfe, worthieſt and faireſt, that hauing bound my life in the ſearch and purſuit of a Iewel, haue it now offred and giuen into my hands, aboue my expectation, aboue al my hopes; I accept it as willingly as you freely beſtow it, and will account it no leſſe deare and precious, then if much time and long labour had been the purchaſe of it, eſteeming it a bleſſing throwne vpon me, by the appointment of my happieſt deſtres. Nor ſhal I need to load my memory with thoſe horrid examples to giue your loue a freer and welcommer paſſage, to loue we are made, and by loue we are made; they onely are without being that haue not the heauenly taſte and enioying of it. I onely deny thoſe excellencies which you lay to my vnguilty charge, it was the reflection of your owne worth (ſtrucken from mee) which hath Narciſſus-like ſo enamored you, it was your owne image (ſhadowed in my eyes) which hath thus captiued you; which ſince you pleaſe in ſo dimme and dull a mirrour I will cherish and make much of it only for your ſake, that you may the perfectlier ſee your ſelfe, and the more loue me; For my loue, take all I am, for my ſecrecy I will not breath it to my ſelfe how I attaine this happineſſe, but liuing and dying, reſt the true honourer and admirer of your worth and vertues,

More then my ſelfe, W. S.

XXXIII.

A Letter from a man to his friend about the going away of his wife.

SHall I at home languish and consume my selfe, and in my inward brest bury my loade which thus oppresseth me? Or may I (deare and worthy friend) finde in you a safe harbour, for my weather-beaten and sea-torne bessell: I am cast away & Shipwracht by the fairest wind that ever kist the Element, undone and lost by the hopefullest way of gaine, that ever Merchant could glory of; my owne hands haue pull'd out mine owne heart, and my selfe done violence vpon my selfe: not to hold you with longer circumstances (my woful heart unwilling to come to it) my Wife, household friend, Companion, in whom my felicity consisted, hath voluntarily, against Nature, Conscience, and her deeply protested vowes giuen her selfe ouer to another, and gone away with him. I call heauen and earth to witnesse I haue made her sickines my death, so haue I fainted vnder the burthen: her health and well being my highest happinesse and ambition; so hath it lifted me to ioy and content: I seemed nothing without her, her loue gaue me being, and indeed desire not to bee now shee is not; for losing her fame, what hath the world of hers good which is not deceasse there only lives her shame and dishonour, which I wish buried in one graue with me: Thy company now, deare friend (for which alone I a while stay in the world) would much ease and take away from my discontents, which if I may enioy, I will shew how willing I am to deserue it, in being ruled and obeying your directions.

Thy most vnhappy friend, T. H.

Answere

XXXIIII.

Answere.

NOthing shal hold me long from you, but the heauenly powers, nor lesse then any vndoing (which if not now preuented will suddenly ouertake me) makes this letter supply this instant my presence. The world is full of snares, in one of which I am suddenly and cunningly entrapped. I see the way before me, but cannot get out: Deiect not your selfe so much for so light a thing as woman; Who can but looke for change in Aprill? the best of them are at the best, no constanter then Camelions, who change hew vpon euery obiect, taking impression from the colour next to them: Doe wee not see great men playing with their wealth, shift their garments daily, not that they are more worne, but that they are weary and loathed, oftentimes putting on lesse costly, lesse handsome, but new, and therefore more delightfull: such is the diuers appetite of woman, who neuer entertaine but a play-fellow, which when they grow weary of, they turne aside and throw by. The Grecian Helen hath sufficiently taught vs, what destroying fires their inconstancy kindleth, shee, the Wife of a great Prince, fled away with a stranger; and haue meaner persons a priuiledge aboue Kings? Be glad and take comfort to your selfe that you haue spoyled the poyson, which if drunke would haue wrought your destruction, that you haue thrown the Serpent out of your bosome, which with more warmth would haue stung you to death: for my part, when I am a colde I would as well embrace fire; or being thirsty, throw my selfe into the Ocean, as trust or desire refreshing from them.

Thy most constant friend, I. C.

XXXV.

A Letter from a Gentleman to his wife.

I Protest vnto you, deerest, or may my words poison me, there is no content equall to the enioying of a companion, to whom true and vnfained loue hath ioined and coupled the partie louing: where ioy is alwaies doubled, reflecting it selfe more strongly from the loued obiect, sorrow much eased and diminished, halfe of the burden being borne vpon the faithfull shoulder of his louing wife and bedfellow: with whom do I so freely conuerse, as with thy faire eyes? what Ambassadours so pleasing and acceptable, as thy friendly and hearty language, which concludes a sure and lasting peace betweene vs? where can I repose my counsel so sure as in thy bosome? where put off my dangers so freely as in thy trust? Life is but a shadow without it, and man a painted Baby wanting so sure a play fellow. I shall thinke all time tedious I spend without thee, all occasions triuiall that bring me not to thee, and my life like that halfe which is deuoured with sleepe, which is not entertained, refreshed, and anew delighted in thy company.

My friends here wonder at my strange solitarinesse when I am most in company, and at my seeming cheerfull when I am alone, feeding my thoughts with thy pleasant beauty and chastity. Take with these letters all I am, and I will speedily bring my body to seek my soule, which hath taken vp his lodging in thy delightfull mansion.

Thy most louing Husband,

T. H.

XXXVI.

Anſwere.

O My beloued I was ſo exceedingly poſſeſt with ioy to ſee thy Letter, that I haue ſcarſe any higher point to reach to when I found it to be ſo wondrous kind a Letter. The Meſſenger might well perceiue my gladneſſe in my countenance, when ſuddenly ſnatching the paper from him, and with fearefull ſlowneſs reading it, and hauing read it, my bloud ſtird with my paſſions mounted to my face, as if that deſired to be beholder of ſo rare a ſpectacle. In theſe dayes I may ſay rare, where huſbands proue to their wifes rather ſtories of their miſeries, then faire examples of their ioy and comfort; I now account the Iewell of my Maiden-head well giuen, which hath purchaſed ſuch ineſtimable riches as in thy loue and affection are heaped vpon me. May I bee more miſerable then I would wiſh my ſelfe to be, if euer by me the leaſt fainting or wearineſſe happen in our affection, May it increaſe like the dayes and multiply like the howers which bleſſe them, that we remaine a patterne to poſteritie of vnfained conſtancy and affection. While you are in the eclipſe, like the Moone, I loſe my ſplendor, borrowing all my light and warmth from you, who like the fayre ſunne diſpearce your beames vpon me. Will you come I will make much of my ſelfe for you; and you preſent make much of my ſelfe in you, preſent or abſent I am nothing without you, and will remaine no longer then I am moſt affectionatly and wholy yours.

Conſtant and affectionate wife, K. H.

XXXVII.

A Letter from a widdowe in the Country to her Daughter, a maide in London.

I Hope my example and the being child ſo to excellent & vertuous a Father may ſomewhat moue you to the embracing of goodneſſe and vertue in what ſubiect ſoeuer you ſhall find it. The libertie of the time and the loſeneſſe of youth will aſke a conſtant minde made vp in it ſelfe, to reſiſt the continuall battry their moſt alluring obiects will lay vnto you. To withſtand which booke your foundation be builded vpon religion, and encompaſt with the cleere ſpring of honeſtie, that you may neither feare opē aſſault nor ſecret vnderminding: when the enemy perceiues you impregnable they will raiſe their ſiege. Beleeue me Daughter, a woman ſpeaking of woemen, your owne heart will eaſily yéeld it ſelfe a Captiue if you come to parley, and beliebe the falſe alluring teares of gaudy youth, attir'd in vanity: Do not heare them, ſpeak not with them, and if you loue your ſelfe or deſire to keepe th'ornament of your ſex deerer, Chaſtity inviolate and ſpotles, neuer to conuerſe with them. They are like the Catterpillers feeding on the faireſt Roſes, and ſpoyling their youth and beauty with kiſſing and breathing vpon them; when peers and fitneſſe ſhall call you to a huſband, looke with your friends eyes, not a louers, for loue like ſpectacles makes mole-hils mountaines, and meane vertues equall to the higheſt. Thus chooſing and doing, you ſhall liue a comfort to your mother, a ioy to your friends, and a bleſſing to your poſterity, when your dead memory ſhall proue no ſhamefull ſtory.

Your Louing mother. A. I.

XXXVIII.

Anſwere.

Deer louing and vertuous mother, it ſhalbe among my chiefeſt glories to haue béene daughter to ſuch happy parents,

parents, who liued old and loued, leauing the world as a teſtimony of their godnes. I am not yet ſo yong as not to loue vertue, though I muſt cõfeſſe not old enough to know it, being diſguiſes with ſo many ſubtilties and likeneſſes. For, who is he ſo wicked that wil not in moſt laſciuious attempts pretend godnes, & beare a ſhew of faire dealing, ſpecially where he perceiues vice is hated? Truly, mother, it makes me think the Iewell the more precious which is ſo attempted, ſought, ſued for, and that the gods did neuer frame ſuch excellent workman-ſhip to be lightly caſt away; I ſée the Temples erected to them curiouſly kept, & not to be prophaned with vnhallowed or lewd hands, and ſhall a Temple of their owne framing, and according to their likenes be ſlightly regarded or ſet by; whilſt I liue, I will diligently prouide for that Caſtle they haue ſet me in, and neuer giue it ouer vpon baſe or diſhoneſt Condition; and if euer I yéld vp, I will firſt ſend the articles to be ratified by you, and then I ſhall not feare to ſet to my hand, and yéld my ſelfe as pledge and hoſtage for the ſure and vtifull performance:

Obedient in all your commands, S. T.

XXXIX.

A Letter from a Gentleman to a Gentlewoman whom he had once ſeene, neuer ſpoken to, yet extremely loued.

IF I vnderualew you (moſt faire and ſeeming vertuous, for ſo much your outſide allures me) in your degrée or title, let the ſmall knowledge I haue of your eſtate (though infinite of your beauty) ſerue for an excuſe, and pardon his boldnes who dare not ſpeake, in that I preſume without any acquaintance; nay, the leaſt notice to make theſe blotted papers the vnwitting Meſſengers of my name and buſines. It was my hap (fortunate how-

euer you ſhal deale with me) to bleſſe mine eyes to Pris. Veronaes Nuptialls with your ſight and beauty. I proteſt vnto you (or may moſt horrid curſes fall vpon me) an extreame affection rebounded from it, ſudden, and vnremouueable. My garments had nothing in them to attract your eie to any particular notice, my owne worth leſſe, my name vnknowne to you; by what meanes can I then deliuer to your vnderſtanding the leaſt light, amongſt al who was he which was the true honourer & obſeruer of your worth and vertues. I can glory of nothing there I did or ſaid, to put you in minde of me; but if your eyes were not wholly carried away with thoſe delights, and your mind altogether poſſeſſed with your owne excellencie, amongſt al thoſe ayry ſpirits I was he alone danc't not, nay moued not, but in thoughts of you: It was I which kept time to the muſique wth my ſighs, it was I, and none but I, ſtood like an Image wth mine eies ſo fixt on you, as if frō thence had proceeded both the ending and beginning of all my motions. Thus miſerably taken I toke my leaue and lodging, where I ſat all night in contemplation of your perfections, without thought of ſowe, ſleepe, or my vrgent buſines, nor did the morning light diſcouer the difference (a greater beauty ſhines in my minde) till my man awa'kt me out of my ſtudy with calling me to dinner. Then indeed I perceiued and diſſembled my loue ſick thoughts & diſmiſſing him with an excuſe, ſought to help my ſelfe with writing to you. But neuer was poore louer in ſuch a maze and wilderneſſe of inuention, my thoughts carring me to the end before I knew which way to beginne, which I haue now ventured vpon, and intreat you for your owne vertues ſake and the pitifull conſideration of the extreames effects of loue not to diſdaine or ſlighten. I deſire nothing but what in the ballance of honour may proue iuſt, and fiting; if my eſtate and carriage ſhall ſeeme worthy your fathers allowance, I deſire infinitly of you, that my perſon (though farre vnworthy

your

your excellency enobled by th'extreame affection I beare you, may not haue an vniuſt refuſall, but let him that extreamely loues honors and ſerues you, be placed in your noble thoughts, and loued of you.

As you ſhall determine of me, R. T.

XL.

An anſwere of the Gentlewoman.

SYR:

My valew in my owne thoughts is nothing, and by due not anſwerable to your titles, but how meane ſoeuer, too good to be diſhonoured and intrapped. The cunning age wee liue in, and the practiſe of youth who make themſelues merrie with theſe paſſions, the too late and miſerable examples of diſgraced beauty teacheth vs to feare and auoyde: And beléeue me (Sir) had not the wilineſſe of your inſcription-bearing ſhewe from a woman, and the craft of your meſſenger deceiued me, your letter had not deliuered your ſéeming forcible paſſions. For the ghelling who you ſhould be by your garments, or ſpeeches, I aſſure you, at ſuch publike aſſemblies, my eyes ſtray not aboue mine owne Sere, nor my eares entertaine other diſcourſes. If you daunc'd not (which truſt me was more then I regarded) you did the Bridegroome the more wrong, and the muſicke was as little beholding to you. For your brown ſtudy which kept you from your food and ſleepe, my beauty which you charge was no way guilty of; and truly, your man who called you to dinner was a better friend to you, then hee which perſwaded you to writing. My father, who is my Guardian, and to whom I owe my life and obedience, if I bee married, muſt be firſt wooed, and then if your loue bee as earneſt as your letter, and your qualities halfe ſo firme as your proteſtations: I haue not dedicated my ſelfe to a Nunnery, nor am ſo far in loue with a ſingle life, but I

ſhall willingly accept from him a ſtay and comfort to my Virgin thoughts. M. G.

XLI.

A Letter gratulatorie from a friend.

I Haue little to ſay to thee, yet would willingly caſt away a penfull of inke to know how thou doeſt, what leſſons the old man reades ouer thy ryot, and how miſerably thou art tortured with his hummes and his ha, the thumbe vnder the girdle, the long parentheſis of what he did when he was a young man, when hee fought with a Butchers dogge. I want thee here miſerably at a pipe of Tobacco and a Temple pot, and there is a Bona Roba wants thee more then I: A very dead time, they complaine of great ſcarcitie, not a man to throw at a Dogge. If I could packe her vp like a peece of olde Ling, I would ſend her to thee for a token, thy Vncle would allow thee ſawce and neuer ſmell her out, for thee ſtinkes like it. Remember th'old ſuite that lies in lauender at the Diuels Factors; and ſtay not beyond your day, leaſt you be hanged out for a ſigne. Take a feare of a Surgeon before thine eyes, and make haſte vp, leaſt thou bee ſpent paſt the oyntment, or Cornelius Tubbe, much good may it doe you this leape yeere.

As farre as the Gallowes, I. C.

XLII.

Anſwere.

IT ſeemes by the contents thou haſt little to write, for thou haſt indeede writ nothing, and I haue as little to doe to looke ouer thy ſcrole. My Vncle, who is Headborough, will lay you in the ſtockes for ſo reuiling his

gray

gray beard, and Ile stand ouer thée and eate porridge. He is gone now to goose faire, where hee hopes to make a good market, in which time I haue some leisure to be doing with the Dairie Maides. Butter and Cheese beares a great sway in our house, and is locked vnder most fenced vpon, the key to picke it hangs before mine eyes, and, the Dayrie Maide being my friend, I haue many a bit he knowes not of. He chides me my bands are in folio, and not in decimo of a Geneua print, not to be seene without spectacles. If he would make a short grace and runne into his graue, I would put a pipe of Tobacco in his packet to drinke with the good-fellowes belowe, till which Ieffery, I must awhile retire my selfe, and not peepe into London till hee hath his passport, and then I come like a Midsomer lord, or a Christmas generall, with bonfiers and Pageantry, that the people shall thinke Symon and Iude is come againe.

There I leaue you, M. P.

XLIII.

A Letter from a poore Gentleman, to a Worshipfull man for some relieſe.

SYR:

YOur knowne virtue and tryed bounty emboldens mee (poore and in that vnworthy) to be a petitioner to your vertuous charity, euer awake to goodnesse, in this distresse to relieue me. I am much behinde hand with fortune, and as voyde of meanes to helpe me, as friends to aduise in this dangerous estate what course to take: Dangerous, I say, for all fly me, as if some strange infection proceeded from pouerty. My olde acquaintance, which in some Sunne-shine playd with my fortune, and cherished themselues with my warmth; now the night is come vpon me, are in that shade and darknesse stolne from me, leauing me nothing but my owne complaints

and

and ſorrowes to accompany me. I can plead no deſert, ſcarſe knowledge (though I think you haue ſomtimes ſæn me, and better vnderſtand my anceſtours) to moue you in this extremity to doe ſomewhat for me. Onely for your owne vertues ſake and the pitifull conſideration of mankinde, which is loſt and ouerthrowne with euery blaſt, be pleaſed to hold vp ſome of thoſe burdnous weights which cruelly oppreſſe me. You cannot ſend ſo little but it will comfort me, what more out of your generous diſpoſition (which is precious to the world) you ſhall beſtow vpon me, I ſhall remaine as a creature to yours, to whom you haue a new giuen life to witnes and teſtifie: howſoeuer you ſhall deale with me, let not this bearer be acquainted, from whom, as aſhamed of my ſelfe, I haue concealed my extremity.

Affectionately deuoted to your
ſeruice, P. Q.

XLIIII.

Anſwere.

SYR:

I Am none of thoſe that raple vpon the Sun in foule weather, but acknowledge his vertues and influence, as well being clouded, as when he ſhines faireſt; nor can your pouerty (which like ruſt ſoneſt praies vpon the brittleſt mettalls) diſgrace your name or family, which I thinke, or els I much deceiue my ſelfe, I haue often heard and knowne worthy better fortunes, gentler acceptation. For my ſelfe, as I haue none of the greateſt meanes, ſo would I be glad to employ that poore talent lent me to the beſt and moſt needfull vſes, for which it was lent mee. Amongſt the reſt, if it ſhall faſten vpon you to doe that good, which I euer in all my actions intended, I haue the fruit of my labours, and deſire no other thankes. Young men

men whose eyes and seeming pleasures have layd them thus lowe, and open to distresse and enuy, should proue like limbes dislointed, the stronger and better able for the breaking. My man who brings this letter, hath not only bare counsell, like the dead letter of the Lawe, but comfort with it like some mercifull expositor. I haue sent you somewhat to raise you from present extremity; and if I may know and see you, I will be readie with my best aduice and some other helpes to reenter you by some course of life into the world, where if you shall growe and prosper, I shall esteem a little money, an easie purchase of my owne content and your well doing.

Your well-willer, W. T.

XLV.

A Letter from a Courtier to his friend:

SYR:

The spangling glory of the Court, like a glow-worm, yeeld most splendor, when you are furthest from it, the neerer you approach it the more it diminisheth, and being throughly acquainted with it loseth all his light. Good clothes and lisping complement are held our best ornaments; and we are Parrots taught to speake what we neither know, nor meane, only a Court language passeth amongst vs, which we dare not be so bold as inquire into, nor so honest as to keepe. Our promises are like springs to catch our desires; our seruice, though pretended to another, is indeede first vpon our selues, and our owne wishes obtained, we are our owne masters. The fauour of the Prince we liue by, which wee neither care to get vertuously, nor employ wisely, but snatching at all occasions we account nothing dishonest, how vniust soeuer, which pleaseth vs gaine. So wee neither proue honest men to deale well with Sutors, nor good Courtiers,

respecting our Princes credit, but hazarding all for an ill purchased estate, leaue our wealth as a testimony of our dishonesty, I would faine retire my selfe into the Country, where if I get an honest graue, I shal count it a greater purchase then their spacious possessions. The waies here beaten before me, I like not, nor cannot follow; let vertue be my guide, and I will make my way through any obstacles to come to my desired iourney.

In a wood, till I am in the Woods, R.H.

XLVI.

Answere.

I Much commend your wisedome (worthy Sir) in describing what is honest, and admire your discretion in following it. Most men (now a dayes) inquire into vertue and goodnesse, that they may fly and auoyde it, and willingly hood-winke themselues not to discern the beauty of it; you, amongst many, like the wise Vlisses, stop your eares against the Syrens and inchaunted gleazes of this world; like the worthy Hercules, chosing the ruggedst steepy way, which (through dangers and many hazards) leades to honour and solid glory, which leaues behind it no ill relishes, no wallowish and lothsome sauors; but still maintaines a constant goodnesse. The affectation of Courtiers, I thinke, better pleaseth themselues then others, like light heads which whistle a dance and make themselues merry. The only reason which may any way allure an honest heart in the enioying of the continuall company and sight of the Prince, a blessednesse much to be desired; but since in the Common-wealth we may safelier and honestlier discharge our duty and faith, I rather wish an vncorrupted liberty then a golden prison: For he glorishes of fortune, honour and riches, they are great ornaments

nameuts if they be well gotten, but heauy loads and diſgraces, where wickednesſe and diſhoneſt meanes are their purchaſers. From hence we ſée the faults of great men are buried in their life, and rayſed vp when they are in their graues, as witneſſes of their defamed memory; Retire to the Country then, where you may liue long, liue honeſt, and after death be well ſpoken of.

Securely ſleeping in a Groue, W.H.

XLVII.

A Letter from a Land-lord to his Tennant.

I Would haue you Goodman vſe your Farme as if it were your inheritance, ſtill imagining wherein you better that, you inrich your ſelfe, not as a leaſe gotten for a fewe yeeres, which being ſhortly to leaue, you wracke and rayſe to the vttermoſt. My good father, in whoſe time you then acknowledged your ſeruice, ſet not his lands on the tenters, ſtretching his rents to the cracking of his Tennants; but wiſely and religiouſly let them out to beneſit poore men, rather then to make himſelfe mighty: you enioy a long terme, firme title, faire land, and in good quantity; and truly all this at a rate much vnder the valew and goodnes. I am proffered more by ſome of your neighbours, ſubſtantiall and honeſt houſholders, could I be induced to wrong you and hurt my ſelfe with iniuring poore men. But I deſire your prayers, and heartily wish my poſterity, if it pleaſe God, may beare my name and houſe long amongſt them, which happineſſe oppreſſors and extortioners ſeldome behold; but are melted like ſnow in Sun-ſhine, their wealth running to euery chance, of wickednesſe and vice conſumed by their prodigall heires. Let mee heare from you, and in what eſtate my buſineſſe ſtands there with you, how my other Tennants hold out, how they vſe my grounds,

for I would not willingly haue their preſent wants or auarice hinder thoſe that come after them, my deſire being for the publike good, and my endeuour ſhall euer ſute to it.

Your louing Land-lord, M. R.

XLVIII.

Anſwere.

RIght Worſhipfull, I wiſh no longer to liue, then I ſhall ſhew my ſelfe dutifull and faithfull to you, and yours, whoſe goodneſſe and gentleneſſe begun in ſo happy a father, hath from you extended, as to all, ſo eſpecially to me and mine, who haue nothing to pay back again, but our wiſhes and deſires for your health & happineſſe. Beleeue me Sir, were the eſtate my owne, I would hardly be ſo carefull, eſpecially ſo ſparing in things due, and I know, by your Worſhip allowed fitting; but I had much rather bee condemned of my neighbours for ſlackneſſe and ill Husbandry, then complain'd of to your Worſhip for wrong and iniury. How can wee that ſee our poore neighbours groning vnder the oppreſsion of their biting Land-lords, but hartily loue and thank you, by whom we are eaſed of ſo terrible a burthen. Thinke of me and mine as your ſlaues, the firmlier by your kindneſſe and goodneſſe, then Knights ſeruice or the moſt ſeruile tenure: your buſineſſe here goes proſperouſly forwards, your grounds well arrayed, howſes in good repaire, and the Tennants thriuing and carefull; ſo good and excellent a Land-lord cannot but to his example faſhion thrifty and honeſt Tennants, who will euer acknowledge you rather as a father among his children, then a Lord of ſeruants neceſſarily depending vpon him.

Your Worſhips poore Tennant to command, T. I.

An-

XLIX.

A Letter from a VSVRER to a Broker.

IT is reported to me (Maſter Broker) by all, whoſe vnhappy chance hath beene to deale with you, that you are a cut throate Knaue, and grind the faces of the poore, that your conſcience is larger then your ſhoppe, and darker then the roome where the pawnes are ſtowed, that you goe euery Moneth to the Diuell for new intelligence, who ſends you of errands amongſt your damned tribe: If theſe things ſhall be iuſtified againſt you, you weare my cloth no longer, but I will giue you ouer to him who hath moſt right to you.

Thoſe pawnes you haue of mine ſpeedily conney to mee, for I feare the ſubuerſion of your houſe, and miſerable end of you and your family. Wee thought thou lookedſt, at thy laſt being with mee, like that wit-ſcar'd Fencer, whom the Diuell carried ſeuen miles in a winters night, conuerſing about ſchoole buſineſſe. If I could heare thee pray, without it be for the ruine of the people, or name any thing touching Heauen, but in thy oathes; I ſhould at laſt hope thou wouldeſt die penitent, ſing a Pſalme at the gallowes, and bee hanged out like one of thy olde ſuites.

Thy ſometimes friend,

Samuel Liſt.

L.

Anſwere.

ALL the world knowes (maſter Uſurer) by your manifeſt ſlaughter, Canibal-like deuouring the people, that a knaue and you cannot be parted; a Broker is but a limbe, you the graund vinell, we fetch in the preyes and you deuoure them. Twenty of vs cannot finde worke enough for the Uſurer, to exerciſe his rapine and extortion vpon: Wee toyle to bring the Deere to the ſtand, ſhoote them, and make way for the hornes, all which, ſome Worſhipfull Gentlemen beſtowes vpon you, whoſe Parkes you haue riſled; you will leaue mes you ſay, A craftie knaue needes no Broker.

But I ſhall leaue with you the curſes of a thouſand poore, which will proue a poſt-horſe to curry you quicke to him whom you haue, by Indenture, truely and honeſtly theſe Twenty yeares ſerued. Your ſoule is like your fingers after your telling of many thouſands, but hopes for a day to be ſcorched with fire and brimſtone: Your bagges about your necke will carry you headlong thither, whence you ſhall neuer riſe till you come to fetch your bodie to beare you companie, where I leaue you: From my wood-houſe on the backſide of S. Clements.

LI.

A Letter from a Gentleman in London to his friend in the Country, about the faſhion and apiſhnes of the people.

BEleeue me friend, I am come into a ſtrange Iland, where I am to learne both Language and manners, our

our country fashions and behauiour are vtterly here and go for nothing, ready to be nayled to a post by the fury of euery Swabber; any one I met vpon ỳ least acquaintance I must measure al ouer with a most large salutation, and make a proclamation of my much indeered and more to be protested seruice; my life, alas, as a thing of nothing I throwe away at his becke, so with a French duck and a wide mee (like an ape ouer a chain) shew what I will do for his sake; if I misse but the way no aduise without the helpe of a Lawyer, and he for Twentie shillings (not vnder) will conduct you where all the friends you haue cannot fetch you out againe, and all this at your owne costs and charges. As you walke further steps out the Yeomen of the wardrope, and in faire termes and a most audible voyce, demand what you lacke, or what it shall please you to see, whom if you take at their words, they fold you in so many pleats, that you must goe back al your life to make you your owne man againe. Coming nearer to the Court, you shall beholde spangled Babies curiously painted, set out in euery windowe, whome you must honour and courtsie so lowe as the earth, and receiue in requital a fewe dissembling smiles with many anticke gestures and lacinious graces. When you are there a number of huge statues and Images, whose Coats are maild with gold stand vp against the wall, whome saluting you passe to the presence, where many guilded puppets dance ouer a peece of tapestry, the motion being attended by some Gentleman vsher, who waits his Contesses approach from behind the hangings. Thus standing in a Muse, one of the forsayd statues moues by a deuice, and hurles you downe staires, if your clothes be not the richer. If you haue any meaning to come hither friend, entertaine one of the rogers to disturbe the Country and the people, that so instructed, you may the securelier walke. I assure you I goe in feare of my life, and cannot haue the peace without the helpe of a Justice, whose Clarke must bee

talkt

taint withall or elſe his Maſter ſleeps perpetually: Fare-well and pray for me, for my eſtate is dangerous.

Moſt from Court when at Court, T.S.

LII.

Anſwere.

IT ſeems friend by your pithy deſcription you haue fair words at London for nothing, but good meaning is not to be had there for money. In the Country though courteſie is eaten downe, yet God be thanked we haue a faire crop of Craft; a Ruſſet ſute, and a ruſtie language, ſhall goe as neere to coſin you, and take your money from you as ere a ſilke-worme there: Our meaſures for the market as falſe as yours, for your complement, and meane as badly as when you ſpeake beſt; and our Juſtice ſo ſtuft as they ſmell not this knauery though it be vnder their noſes. If you looke for faire dealing, wee muſt leaue theſe lowe countries and trauell higher, for but in heauen I thinke there is nothing good and honeſt: For your painted Babies and guilded Puppets which are to be ſeene at Court, I am not in minde to trouble, being promiſed the ſight of Monſters neerer hand, at an eaſier rate: I ſhall be glad to heare you doe well, though much rather induced to beleeue it, then come to ſee it. At the next Part what other newes you haue, I pray you ſend ouer, and I will the next returne, lay open our incloſures to your view.

Not ſafe in the Country, R.T.

DIII.

A Letter from a Conſtable to his neighbour, about the apprehending a Felon.

My very good neighbour, I repreſenting the Kings perſon ſalute you in mine owne, and to uſe the very words of a learned Juſtice. Theſe are to charge and command you from midnight to morning to ſtand (mark what I ſay, in ſpight of your wife) to ſtand, with long pike in your hand, in ſome darke hole, (as the Cittie is full of them) for the apprehending of a Maid ſeruant, who hath feloniouſly and contrary to the ſtatute, being too buſie with her Maſter, miſtake me not (Neighbour Little-wit) the buſines I meane, is not that buſines you take it for; but a buſines of waight and importance, of which the Maſter hath had a ſhrewd feeling: To lay the wench more open to you, ſhee hath made a conueyance (without the helpe of a Scriuener) of her Maſters ware, & priuily (to his great prejudice) ſtolne her Mris. Night-geere, and departed. If ſuch things may be ſuffered neighbour, in a well gouerned Common-wealth, we the Conſtable and watch of this Cittie, ſhall be beaten with our owne bils, ſee our rug gownes worne before our faces, and may caſt up our Night-caps and proue here the wiſer: to auoid which inconuenience, let no maid paſſe you, but be doing with her, if ſhee will not ſtay, downe with her, and then you may the eaſier ſee what ſhe hath about her, and by vertue of my ſtaffe I will warrant and defend you from all Sumners, Catchpoles, and Promoters: this twelue a clock of my Raigne, from my Pallace of Piſſing-Conduit.

The Kings midnight repreſenter, Deputy Conſtable, and Botcher Richard Woodoot.

LIIII.

Anſwere.

MOſt Woꝛſhipfull Night-man, I wil be ready pꝛeſt with my Staffe, Pike and Gauntlet, to watch the appꝛoach of this wily Virgin; and ſo handle the matter, that I will make a hard diſcouery of my man-hood and dutie: And if the Wench pꝛoue, I will lay it to your charge, as the head and chiefe man in all theſe mid-night buſineſſe: In your name ſhe ſhall ſtand, in your name goe downe, if ſhe will not ſtand, in your name be fetcht vp if I can ſtand, and put in the hole to anſwere nexꝛt day what you can charge her with: It is a lamentable and deteſtable age, that maid-ſeruants ſhould, now a daies, ſo commonly rifle their Maſters pockets, that their pooꝛe wiues haue not a penny to bleſſe themſelues withall; nay, I haue knowne a woꝛſhipfull Iuſtice, before whom a handſome wench being bꝛought, and in pꝛiuate examined, vpon her humble ſubmiſſion, himſelfe being ready to take vp the matter, there was ſuch an out-cry at his backe made by his Lady, that he was faine to commit her to ſafer cuſtodie: There is much iugling in the dark; therefoꝛe, I will indeuour with the helpe of my hoꝛne, to pꝛy narrowly into euery coꝛner, and relate to your woꝛſhip what beaſtlineſſe there is, and then your ſelfe ſhall commit it: From my ſhedde in S. Bartholmewes this pꝛeſent dinner time, if meate comes.

Your moſt obedient Browne-bill.

Nicholas Little-wit.

From

LV.

From a Gentleman to his Father about the purchaſe of an Office.

SYR:

AS it pleaſed you at my firſt coming hither to acquaint me ſomewhat with your intent about the courſe of my life, which you were deſirous I ſhould both ſettle and aduance in ſome good office; I haue accordingly laid out, and at laſt found one, though not in reſpect and credit with the greateſt, yet for gaine and reuenewe not much inferiour to the beſt; and truely Sir, ſeeing by that little experience I haue, officers here (as cattell in the Country) not regarded of what breed, but of what fleſh & greatneſſe; I thought it would neither preiudice you, nor diſparage me in the purchaſe of it, euery man here taking his place and credite, as his bagges are heauieſt and fulleſt; I haue not yet further medled in it, then only the notice of it, fearing my youth & want of ſuch a place, ſhould enhance and raiſe the priſe: but if it pleaſe you either by your ſelfe (if your owne occaſions can ſpare you ſo long) or any friend (whome you may with truſt employ) to deale in it, I make no queſtion, both the nature of it will content you, and the rate nothing, diſtaſte you: The Lawe to which I doe with as much earneſtnes apply my ſelfe, as my yeares and vnderſtanding will ſuffer: is both a great while taking rote, and then without much and golden manuring ſprouts not high; This office, worthy Syr, if it ſtand to your liking, will both better ſatiſfie my deſires, and inſtantly yeeld meanes and comfort of liuing: I reſt at your diſpoſing and humbly expect your bleſſing and reſolution.

Your obedient Soone W. C.

LVI.

Anſwere.

SOnne, as I at firſt acquainted you with my minde, ſo I haue ſince bin acquainted with your conditions, which hath quite altered the meaning of it: Can I expect, or ſhall I commit the gouernment of an office to you, who cannot rule your ſelfe? Can I thinke you ſufficient to ouerſee ſeruants, who are not your owne Maſter, ſubiect to euery affection, and led away with euery paſſion? Shall I adde furie to madneſſe, or put a ſword in the hand of a Murderer? Were I able to leaue you the whole world, you would bring it to the firſt Chaos, and lament with Alexander there were no more worlds, not to conquere, but to loſe, and throw away. The meanes I allow you (ſufficient for an honeſt man, and creditable for a right good Gentleman) are ſwallowed vp and deuoured in your ryots and laſciuiouſneſſe, and ſmal drops in the Ocean, neuer ſéene, neuer accounted of: May, you haue conſumed and ſpent your credit; which, like a light Huſwife, you haue proſtituted to all commers, and ſo commonly abuſed it, that it is forfeted, and muſt (I feare) be clapt vp for a recouerie: While theſe rumours and knowne reports ſhame me, and ſtick vpon you, looke, nor hope for any thing; but if I ſhall truely vnderſtand of your retiring and amendment, I ſhal with open armes entertaine you, and reioyce the Prodigall hath left his vomits, leauing vndone nothing, which may either grace or aduance you.

Thy carefull Father, Th. R.

A Let-

LVII.

A Letter from a friend ſicke, to his friend for aduice.

SYR:

I Haue bẽn long troubled with a diſeaſe, and feare the Phyſition as the woꝛſe ſicknes: I would not willingly run out of a conſumption into my graue, noꝛ take my death on't, that I haue tooke Phyſicke: Their purges neuer leaue a man whilſt he hath a penny, and their vomits bꝛing away all: I pꝛay you ſend me your aduice, I would faine be well, yet am loth to dye to fetch it. Foꝛ Kitchin Phyſicke I want a Wife, ſuch a Reſtoꝛatiue wil els, ſoone bꝛing a man to his end; Tis a very hard choyce to which to truſt to, they are ſo merciſull both, they will neuer beleeue a man is bald, till his bꝛaines are out: I pꝛay you ſend me a Recipe what to doe, oꝛ els a Keeper to pull away my pillow.

LVIII.

Anſwere.

FRiend, giue your Phyſition an Annuity, during your life, and ſo he muſt truſt to you, oꝛ els take nothing, and then you need not truſt to him. A Conſumption is an eaſie pace, and carries you a great way beſoꝛe you come to your iournies end: but their dꝛugges gallop with you, and in an inſtant leaue you at your Inne. The Pothecary pꝛoues your hoꝛſe, and your wife helpes you into the ſaddle, two neceſſary inſtruments foꝛ the thꝛowing vp of your graue, vpon which ſhe will ſee the earth well beſtowed foꝛ feare of your riſing: My reſtoꝛatiues are warme meates and good Companions, a light heart and a beaute ſleepe, new ayꝛe, and old wines, which if

you take moderately and aduisedly, you will carrie a whole heart and a sound head; Burne your Recipe, and hang vp your Keeper.

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